Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you believe the federal government should step in and help resolve the crisis surrounding CUC?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Angst Returns

Angst has returned to Wall Street due to concerns the rescue package may cost too much, drive up inflation, swell the already-bloated deficit and hurt the ailing economy.

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Genius Grants

An architectural historian who studies ancient bridges was among 25 recipients of this year's MacArthur Foundation "genius grants."

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Commerce eyes adjusting federal aid formula. **PAGE 3**

CHC rehires its in-patient pharmacist. **PAGE 5**

AG's order vs Rota Resort owners 'shocks' lawmakers

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Legislature yesterday expressed shock at the CNMI Attorney General's Office's order for the new owners of Rota Resort to shut down and leave the property after failing to obtain government approval for their purchase of the 600-acre complex.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Senate President Pete Reyes, in a joint letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, took issue with the AG's accusations of trespassing and threat of a lawsuit against

See AG'S on Page 4

Voter registration plummets

Just 12,947 sign up to vote in November election

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Barely 13,000 voters will decide who the Commonwealth's first-ever congressional delegate will be this November—just about a fourth of the total CNMI population.

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NEW WATER RESERVOIR JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial shakes hands with Nikolao Pula, director of the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs during the Water Task Force ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Calhoun reservoir on Navy Hill yesterday. ***See story on Page 2***

High Court affirms Miura extradition

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Miura

The CNMI Supreme Court yesterday affirmed the Superior Court's decision that ordered the extradition of Kazuyoshi Miura to California where he is facing murder and conspiracy to commit murder charges over the killing of his wife in 1981.

See HIGH on Page 4

Pula: Focus on finding long-term solution

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Aggreko generators give the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. breathing room, but long-term decisions must be agreed upon in order to provide reliable power, Office of Insular Affairs Nikolao Pula said yesterday as he toured the Aggreko generators site.

"We don't want to prolong decisions," he said. "But we want to

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio S. Muña, left, shows the Aggreko units installed in Lower Base to visiting Office of Insular Affairs director Nikolao Pula yesterday. With them are Special assistant to Governor's Office Geothermal and Renewable energy adviser Thomas S. Salas, U.S. Office of Insular Affairs policy division's Francisco I. Taitano and plant general managing engineer Venugopal Prabhakara.

Local

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, U.S. Office of Insular Affairs director Nikolao Pula, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio S. Muña, and GPPC project engineer Dennis Tupas lead the Water Task Force ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Calhoun reservoir on Navy Hill yesterday. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

New water reservoir opened on Navy Hill

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Water Task Force yesterday held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the recent startup of the new water reservoir on Navy Hill.

The new water reservoir will provide water to the businesses and residents of Navy Hill, lower Chalan Galaide, China Town, upper MIHA, and the Commonwealth Health Center.

The $1.4 million project, paid for with federal funds from the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs, involves the construction of a new steel water storage tank and the rehabilitation of an existing concrete water storage tank. Each reservoir holds 500,000 gallons of water.

The project also includes one emergency generator and a building, as well as a chlorination and booster pump system, and new water lines.

OIA Director Nikolao Pula, who is on island to meet with local leaders on energy issues, said he was pleased to see the completed project. He said he will continue to work with the CNMI government toward improving the local utilities.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial expressed his appreciation to OIA for funding the reservoir project. "[I] look forward to more successful infrastructure projects resulting from the accountable and prudent use of federal funds," he said.

The Water Task Force administered the project. The local contracting firm, GPPC, began the construction in May 2007 and finished it in June 2008.

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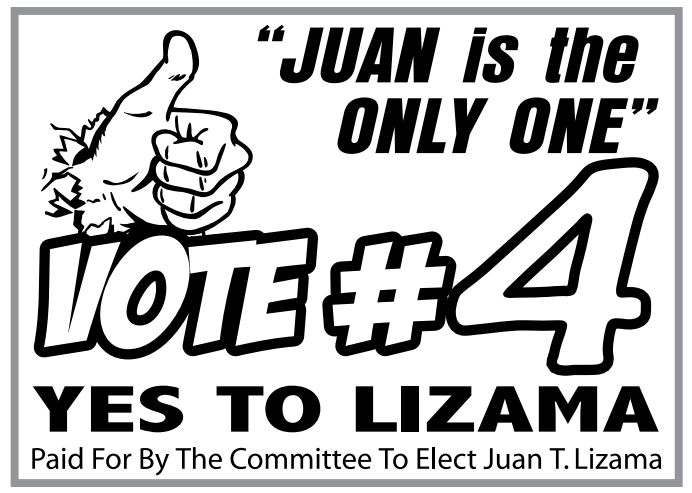

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/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Commerce eyes adjusting federal aid formula

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

The CNMI Department of Commerce and local food stamp program officials are eyeing efforts to work with federal agencies on adjusting the economic formula that serves as the basis for allotments of federal aid on Rota and Tinian in a bid to account for higher commodity prices on the islands, a move that could bring recipients there more government benefits.

Senate lawmakers in a session on Rota last week said high retail prices on Rota and Tinian have diminished the buying power that federal assistance like food stamps can provide for the islands' inhabitants and urged government offices to work to resolve the issue.

In an interview Tuesday, newly confirmed Commerce Secretary Michael Ada said his department and other local officials are considering a plan to ask the agencies tasked with distributing federal aid and money in the CNMI how they can change data used to determine the allotment formula.

One key issue, he said, is the consumer price index Commerce sets for the CNMI, a report on the average price of various commodities that federal officials study when determining how much assistance an aid recipient should get under initiatives like the Nutrition Assistance Program, the Women, Infants and Children program and Medicaid.

The prices on the index, Ada said, stem from survey data gathered throughout the CNMI yet price discrepancies due to the cost of shipping commodities to Rota and Tinian and data collection issues can influence the CPI's results in several ways.

"Because Saipan has more of the commodities, that can skew the CPI in favor of Saipan," Ada said. "If we take more samples of prices on Saipan, we'll find that the average price for a bag of rice, just as an example, might be closer to $30 rather than $40."

Ada

Rota and Tinian's higher prices—which exceed Saipan's on everything from food to fuel to beer—can also alter the CPI's outcome, he added.

"Rota commodities are much more expensive and we take that into account when we do the CPI," said Ada. "But what happens a lot of the time is that, depending on the price, a commodity on Rota can also skew the numbers because it is really high in comparison to Saipan's prices."

The price disparity between Saipan and elsewhere in the CNMI, Ada noted, can have a serious impact on those who rely on federal aid.

"The recipient on Saipan can often buy more with their food stamps if [the allotment] is based on the price of commodities here," he said.

The local government's plan to address this issue with federal officials comes as Commerce is now in the process of "rebasing" the CPI, re-examining the data to ensure it reflects current market conditions.

To resolve the problems linked to the wide price discrepancies seen throughout the CNMI, Ada said Commerce needs federal officials to give them criteria on how they can adjust the consumer price index data that programs like WIC and NAP use. This could require a simple market survey, he said, comparing prices on the islands.

A more expensive alternative would be to create separate CPIs for Rota and Tinian, he said. However, this could prove challenging to Commerce, according to a staffer in the department's central statistic division.

"With the prices for just about everything on Rota and Tinian there are wide discrepancies," he said. "Given the size of the islands and their population, to put together a whole other [CPI] is going to be difficult.'

The staffer also noted that certain commodities listed on the CPI are not found for sale on Rota and Tinian.

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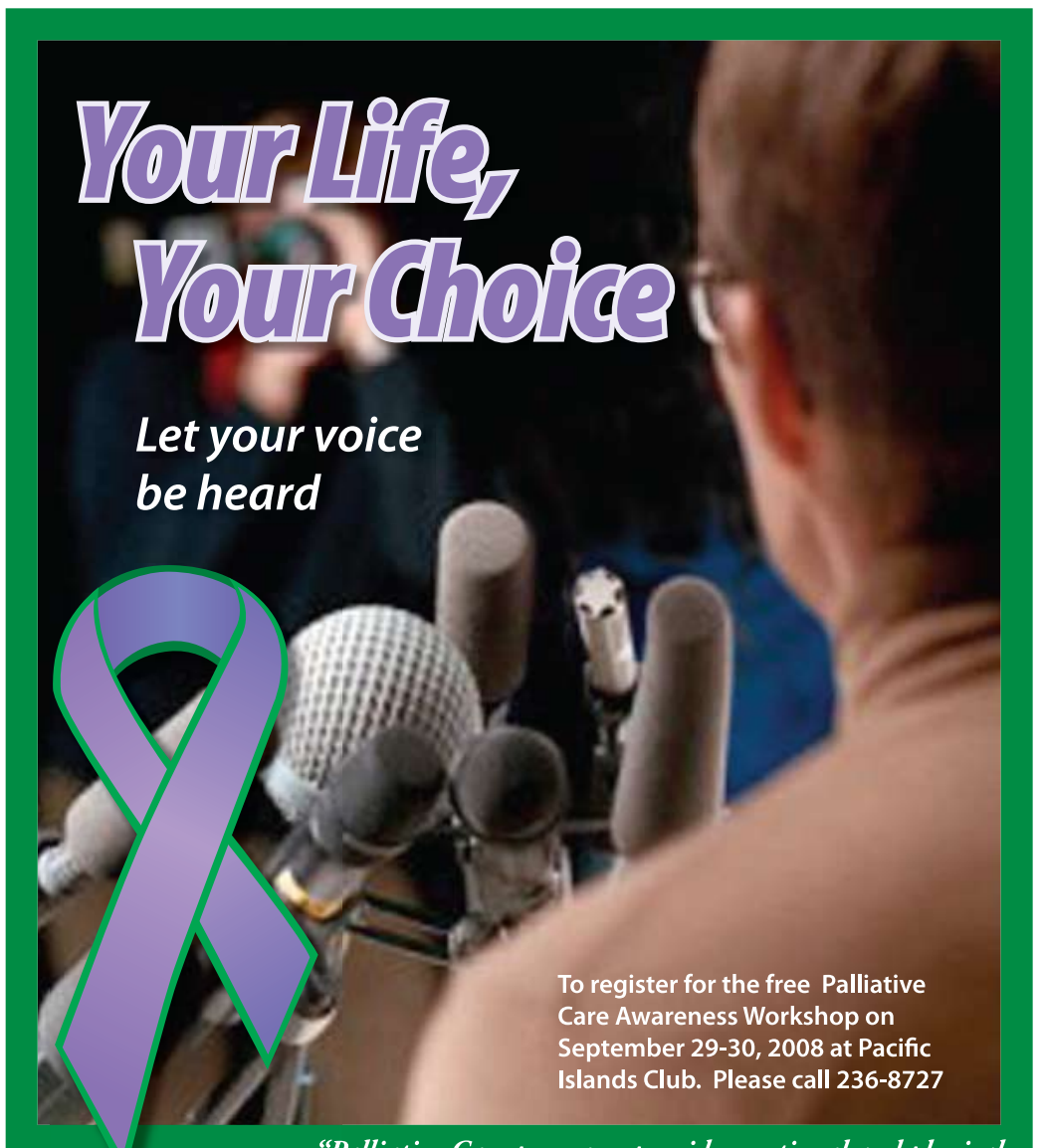
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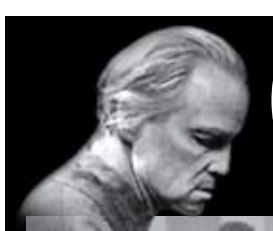
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Man gets 120-day prison term for machete attack

The Superior Court has slapped a 120-day prison term on a man who hacked and injured another with a machete during a fight that was triggered by a joke about religion at an apartment in Chinatown.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Ashik Uzzman Khan to one year in prison, all suspended except for 120 days, for assault with a dangerous weapon.

Following a plea agreement, Wiseman gave Khan credit for the time he had already served in jail.

The judge placed the defendant on two years of probation and ordered him to pay a $100 fine plus probation and court costs.

Wiseman required the defendant to write a letter of apology to the victim, Asfat Ali. He was also ordered to pay any emergency room expenses due to the offense.

Khan was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery. He signed a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon.

The incident occurred on Jan. 25, 2008, when Khan punched Ali, triggering during a party. Khan, a Muslim, joked about the religion of one of the guests, Sukesh Chandra Barman, who is Hindu. Khan, in a loud voice, also threatened to throw Barman from the second floor.

This prompted Barman to leave the party. Several other guests also left because they were afraid that something bad would happen.

Ali told Khan that because of what he did to Barman, their friends and visitors were forced to leave.

The defendant stood up, uttered a profanity and allegedly pushed and kicked Ali.

Khan then ran downstairs where he and Ali had a fight. As some friends tried to stop them, Khan ran to his car where he took a machete.

Khan allegedly swung the machete at Ali, but the latter managed to grab and hold the blade.

The suspect grabbed back the machete. Three friends got the machete and stopped Khan. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

HIGH

From Page 1

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, Associate Justice Alexandro C. Castro, and Justice Pro Tem Jesus C. Borja ruled that Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona's decision denying Miura's request for a writ of habeas corpus is affirmed.

In a one-page order issued last night, the justices lifted the CNMI Supreme Court's Sept. 15, 2008, order staying Miura's extradition. They did not explain their decision, saying their reasoning in affirming the trial court's decision will follow in a full opinion.

After listening for over an hour to the arguments yesterday afternoon, Demapan had announced that they are placing the matter under advisement.

"We understand the arguments. We will do our very best to expedite the resolution of the case," Demapan had said.

That meant the justices will deliberate on the case and will soon issue a ruling.

As this developed, one of Miura's lawyers, William Fitzgerald, disclosed that if the CNMI High Court denies their appeal, they are going to file a petition for habeas corpus before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Fitzgerald said, however, that they don't know whether the justices will issue a ruling after one day or one week.

"Under advisement is kind of open-ended," he said.

In an interview after the hearing, Fitzgerald said their main argument is that this is a very unique case that requires a very unique solution. "I think the justices will take that very seriously," he said.

He said if the CNMI Supreme Court denies their appeal, they will appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court and also file their petition for habeas corpus before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

"The justices are very good. So I am confident. I think they will consider all the arguments and come out with the right solution," Fitzgerald said.

Warfield told the media that everything went well at the hearing and that he thinks the justices were receptive to the CNMI government's arguments.

As to allegations by Miura's lawyers that the Los Angeles Police Department tried to snatch Miura while his appeal is pending before the CNMI High Court, Warfield said that is not what happened.

He said a suggestion by Miura's lawyers that California was somehow engaged in some clandestine activity to sneak him out before his appeal could be heard "quite frankly didn't occur."

Warfield said when the LAPD detectives found out that Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona Manglona had denied the habeas petition last Sept. 12, they immediately made arrangement to fly here to Saipan as quickly as they could.

"They got here on Monday [Sept. 15]. When they arrived, they found out about the stay and they turned around and left. They didn't make any inquiries about trying to get him," he said.

At the hearing, associate justice Alexandro Castro asked Miura's lawyers for particulars on what errors Judge Manglona made in denying the petition.

Fitzgerald explained that Judge Manglona wasn't able to take all the facts into consideration.

Fitzgerald said they feel that the District Attorney's Office in L.A. has not been candid with the CNMI court. "The trial court was not fully aware of what's going in California," he said. "Had she understood the facts of what was going on in California, she would have decided differently."

Fitzgerald said their point is that the CNMI trial court should not decide an issue that the California Superior Court is about to rule on by Sept. 26.

Citing a precedent case, Fitzgerald emphasized that this is very unique situation and a "case of first impression" because California itself is unsure whether it is actually precluded from even prosecuting Miura because of the applicability of California's statute, which grants him immunity from any further prosecution.

Fitzgerald also read a transcript of the California court proceedings where the judge stated that bringing Miura to L.A. at this time is just a waste of money.

Fitzgerald pointed out that the warrant against Miura is in "very serious question."

As to what harm will cause Miura if he is extradited to California, the lawyer said their client is here and that he wants the protection of CNMI laws.

"He is entitled to due process," Fitzgerald said.

In the government's argument, Warfield said Manglona was right when she pointed out that extradition is a summary and mandatory proceeding.

Warfield said any ruling by the California court is irrelevant because extradition is a summary and mandatory proceeding.

He said the case has been delayed in the CNMI courts for five months now.

But Borja intervened that if Miura loses in this appeal, the next thing he would probably do is go to the federal court where he is not prevented from filing a petition for habeas corpus.

Demapan also stated that if LAPD detectives were able to get Miura out before the high court could order a stay, then Miura's appeal would then be moot.

Warfield explained that there was no clandestine activity to sneak out Miura.

"They [LAPD] simply got here quickly," he said.

AG'S

From Page 1

JMSH LLC, saying these reflect poorly on the business atmosphere in the CNMI. They said the Department of Public Lands was to blame for the situation because it failed to work with the Rota Resort owners on the sale.

"At a time when we are struggling to bring in new business to our islands, this hardly seems to be the most encouraging news for potential investors," the letter says. "Most disturbing is the fact that this demand by the AG stems from what appears to be a lack of action on the part of the Department of Public Lands in working with Rota Resort owners to approve the sale."

DPL Secretary John S. Del Rosario Jr. could not be reached for comments at press time. But press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the Department of Public Lands was just looking out for the interests of the indigenous people.

"DPL is entrusted with the administration of public lands. They take their duties seriously. I don't think you can fault them for enforcing the law," Reyes said.

Palacios and Reyes said that JMSC LLC, the current owner of Rota Resort, has always been forthright with the sale of the property, even going so far as meeting with Fitial and announcing its plans in the local media. The legislative leaders added that efforts by the Rota Legislative Delegation to discuss the issue with DPL have been stonewalled.

Palacios and Reyes noted that there is so much at stake if the government forces JMSC LLC to shut down and leave Rota Resort.

The resort, which is the biggest draw to the island, was losing $3 million a year when JMSC LLC bought it last month. Shortly after the purchase, the company infused new cash into the business and saved the charter flights to Rota by blocking off 6,000 seats from Freedom Air to increase the Saipan-Rota and Guam-Rota markets.

"They were the only company willing to do that," said Palacios and Reyes.

They also pointed to the 108 employees who would lose their jobs if Rota Resort shuts its doors. "Are we to deny them employment because of government bureaucracy? Is it truly in the best interest of the owners of public land to have productive buildings rotting from disuse and productive land losing value due to a lack of maintenance while DPL takes its time deciding issues? It seems wasteful, at the very least," they said.

PULA

From Page 1

be transparent and not repeat the problems in the future. I don't want to point fingers. Right now we need to focus on the power."

"As far as my coming here, I'm looking forward to discussing options on where to move forward," added Pula, whose department administers several grants for the Commonwealth and other U.S. insular areas.

He said it's important to remember the Aggreko generators, adding 15 megawatts of power to the island, are only contracted for 12 months. CUC can opt to add six more months to the contract.

Navy engineers from Guam are scheduled to assess the power plants today and see which engines can be rehabilitated, Pula said. Once their data is complete, "we have to sit down and discuss," he added.

Engineers from Guam were chosen to assess the situation because it was cheaper than bringing in engineers from other locations.

"It's not free," he said, adding that limited money and resources continue to be a struggle for CUC. Reprogramming capital improvement money might be necessary, he said.

When asked if he thinks CUC's budget can cover the necessary improvements to the power plants, Pula said he did not know until experts, whom he said he is willing to bring to the CNMI, examined the conditions of the plants.

"Bottom line, you've got to look at where you stand. Once you do that you can go from there," he said.

CUC executive director Antonio Muña earlier estimated the rehabilitation of engines 5 and 7 at Power Plant 1 to cost $2 million to $4 million.

During yesterday's tour, CUC and Aggreko officials and crewmembers, including Muña, CUC managing engineer Venugopal Prabhakara and Aggreko commissioning engineer Roberto Rasalan, explained the safety precautions and working details of the generators.

Pula said it is important to have proper security on site for the equipment and for people.

"I'm more worried about someone coming in and not knowing what they're doing," Pula said. "This is millions of dollars worth of equipment."

Rasalan said there is 24-hour security on the site as well as a fence surrounding the lot.

Pula said he was impressed with Aggreko's quick response to the power crisis.

"It looks pretty good, to the extent the units got here," he added. "I think everybody appreciates that. I'm impressed with how clean the systems are. The fuel system is small and contained."

Earlier in the day Pula and Muna met with Gov. Benigno Fitial and other lawmakers, including Senate President Pete Reyes and House of Representatives Speaker Arnold Palacious. Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho also took part in a conference call where geothermal energy was discussed.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said the meeting was productive.

"The parties were primarily discussing the CUC crisis and challenges, and the plan for a long-term solution," he said. "Mr. Pula emphasized a plan to work together and push aside political problems."

VOTER

From Page 1

The number of voters who have registered for this year's election—12,947—represents a 14-percent drop, compared with 15,200 during the midterm election last year.

With nine candidates in the running and so few votes up grabs, many believe the race is open for any candidate. In the Commonwealth, the candidate with the highest number of votes wins. As is typical in a plurality system, the larger the number of candidates, the smaller the percentage of votes needed to win.

Gregorio C. Sablan, a former executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission and an independent candidate for delegate, said the small number of registered voters is not surprising. He noted that, although historic, this year's election is for one position only and hence does not attract as much as interest as, for instance, a gubernatorial election, where many government jobs are "on the line."

Another possible reason for the low registration is a law requiring previously registered voters to re-register if they miss one election. The 2007 election posted the lowest voter turnout in over 10 years, with over 4,000 registered voters failing to cast their ballots. Under the law, all those voters were automatically taken off the voters' list and were required to re-register to vote this year.

According to Sablan's estimate, there are over 3,000 eligible voters who did not register for this year's election.

Yet Sablan expressed hope that registered voters would turn up and cast their ballots on Nov. 4. "I hope we get a high turnout this year. This is a very important election, and people need to take part," he said.

According to Election Commission statistics, Election District 1, which consists of San Antonio, San Vicente and Koblerville, has 3,529 voters. Election District 2, made up of Chalan Kanoa and Susupe, has 1,008 voters. Election District 3 has 2,700 voters, including 1,990 in Garapan and 710 in Oleai.

Tanapag, San Roque, Capital Hill and the Northern Islands, which comprise Election District 4, have 1,412 voters. The Kagman subdivisions, which make up Election District 5, have 1,797 voters.

Tinian has 1,136 voters and Rota has 1,365 voters.

CHC rehires its in-patient pharmacist

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center has rehired pharmacist Anthony Raho, who headed the in-patient pharmacy for 12 years.

The re-hiring should allow the in-house CHC pharmacy to open during the next few weekends, said Alex Gorman, lawyer for CHC and the Department of Public Health.

The pharmacy has been closed on the weekends due to a lack of staff. With the rehiring, it should be able to open on the weekends until Oct. 8, when the other pharmacist leaves, Gorman added. The pharmacy provides all the medicine to the hospital. PHI, a private pharmacy, is also located in the hospital.

Gorman said Raho, who is traveling from the U.S. mainland, should start work on Thursday.

"We've always been in discussions [with Raho]," Gorman said. "We've been going back and forth since February."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial did not renew Raho's contract earlier this year. Fitial's failure to renew Raho's contract was due to a salary cap problem, Gorman said. Currently, professionals have a salary cap of $50,000, but Gorman has drafted a bill to raise the cap of health care professionals in some circumstances ***(See related story)***.

CHC is "working out some things to meet the salary demands" of Raho, Gorman said, adding that he could not go into details about the salary discussions.

Also, the hospital is currently in discussions with a doctor who is also a pharmacist, but first they must work out the legality of the contract, Gorman said. The doctor is willing to work weekends, which will give the pharmacy full coverage, he said, adding that the hospital continues to seek other full-time pharmacists.

There were no major problems with the in-house pharmacy being closed on the weekends, Gorman said, although advanced planning was necessary to make sure the proper medications were ready for the weekend.

Bill to keep ER doctor on staff to go before House

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

A bill expected to go before the House of Representatives on Friday will allow the Department of Public Health to retain an emergency room doctor who, under the current public law, is not allowed contract renewal.

"Dr. Priyantha Wijay is currently a mainstay of the ER department schedule but is not eligible for contract renewal due to the current restrictions of Public Law 15-108," said DPH lawyer Alex Gorman.

Under the current public law, physicians and dentists who are not citizens or permanent residents must be board-certified. Gorman has drafted a bill that would allow those with U.S. or Canadian board-eligible status to work for DPH. Gorman also included a grandfather clause that would allow physicians and dentists who are not citizens or permanent residents, but have worked with DPH since Jan. 1, 2008, to continue working.

No physicians or dentists interested in working at DPH have been turned away, "but we envision that will happen in the future if we don't change the law," Gorman said.

The bill also expands the health care professionals exempted from the public law. Under the proposed bill, health care professionals who are licensed, certified, registered or otherwise regulated by the Health Care Professions Licensing Board may be exempted if they are graduates of recognized colleges and universities with a degree in their area of specialty in their country of origin. They must also satisfy all of their country's professional licensing and certification requirements in addition to satisfying, if applicable, the licensure requirements established by the Commonwealth Health Care Professions Licensing Board.

The exemptions will retroactively go into effect and expire Sept. 30, 2017, according to the bill.

Gorman said he believes the bill is going to be fast-tracked through the legislative process.

Fiesta recognizes honest employee

A Fiesta Resort and Spa employee has been recognized by the hotel management for exceptional honesty after returning a wallet she found containing $600 and ¥90,000.

Sol Manglanget, a Spa employee, found the wallet in front of the hotel's North Wing elevator landing and turned it over to the Front Office.

Manlanget was presented with a "Hafa Adai Spirit" certificate and dinner-for-two gift certificate at the Mai Restaurant as reward for her honesty and for going the extra mile to provide quality customer service.

"I believe this deed, especially from an employee, deserves great recognition," said Lupe Flores of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Ray Guerrero, HR Training Coordinator; Sol Manglanget; Eliana Wania, Spa Manager; and Ronel Sunga, Rooms Division Manager of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

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Environmentalists to launch monument TV ad

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Environmentalists backing a proposal to establish a national marine monument in the CNMI's northern waters are poised to take their case to the local airwaves soon with a television advertisement, a plan that comes as critics of the proposal are heightening their efforts to block it.

The advertisement, now available on YouTube, features several local residents spanning various age groups voicing support for the monument, which would place 110,000 square miles of ocean water under heightened federal protection.

Friends of the Monument, a recently formed citizen group supporting the plan, created the advertisement and intends to have it broadcasted locally, according to Angelo Villagomez, coordinator for the Pew Charitable Trust.

In an interview Tuesday, Villagomez said the advertisement has already appeared on local television's John Gonzales Show and is now featured on the Discovery Channel's Web log.

Meanwhile, critics of the proposed monument are ratcheting up opposition to it, sending a lengthy letter to President Bush earlier this week urging him to forgo the plan while chastising the Pew Charitable Trust's approach to building support for it in the community.

Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (R-Saipan), who introduced a recently passed CNMI House resolution disapproving of the proposal, said in an interview that Pew's tactics have divided the community.

"We're a Christian community and we don't need these negative things," Tebuteb said. "It is in our Constitution to protect our natural resources. No one is against that. It is just this approach of shoving it down our throats because the president is leaving office and so forth that we're against."

Tebuteb's comments come after several CNMI government officials and opponents of the monument plan in a Sept. 15 letter to the White House blasted the monument proposal, saying it would trample on the rights of local people.

"We islanders know that we own the waters, perhaps not by political title, but by birth and birthright and the unalienable right to life, liberty and property," the letter says, adding that the local government has made significant strides in protecting the environment. "Give monumental prestige and honor to the people of the NMI and reject the proposal to designate a national marine monument in the NMI."

President Bush has already ordered federal agencies to begin an assessment of the waters at issue to determine whether they are suitable for a marine monument.

Man gets 1 year for stabbing teen

The Superior Court has imposed a one-year prison term on a man who repeatedly stabbed a teenager with a knife during a fight outside a house in Kagman.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Eddie Ngirngesang to three years in prison, all suspended except for 12 months, for aggravated assault and battery.

Following a plea agreement, Wiseman gave the 23-year-old Ngirngesang credit for the one year he had already served in jail.

The defendant was placed under five years of supervised probation.

The judge ordered the defendant to pay $2,626.48 in restitution for medical bills incurred by the victim, Christopher Doses Kin.

Ngirngesang was also directed to pay a $500 fine, $125 in court assessment fee plus probation fee. In addition he was required to perform 120 hours of community service and write a letter of apology to the victim.

The defendant signed a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and battery. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Kristo Rai Parish
GOLF TOURNAMENT
Laolao Bay West Course
September 27, 2008
Registration Time: 06:30 a.m.
Tee Time: 07:30 a.m.
DONATION: $100.00
(includes Green/Cart fees, prize & banquet)
Trophies and other gift prizes will be given to top three winners of each category. Awards and Banquet will be held following the tournament at the Laolao Bay Driving Range.
For more information, you may call
Margaret DelaCruz at 287-4627
or Marcy Cepeda at 483-7221.
Tournament sponsored by the
Kristo Rai Parish

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670
Fax. (670) 234-9021 • Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Vice Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Special Meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
A. PY 2008 Annual Action Plan
B. Community Development Block Grant Projects

V. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAMS
A. Status of Loan Programs
B. Other Loan Matters

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Pursuant to PL 8-41, Section 13(6) and (7), some discussion of the above may be under Executive Session.

/s/ **MERCED (MARCIE) M. TOMOKANE**
Vice Chairwoman of the Board

Make time to lose weight, gym owner says

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Gold's Gym co-owner Eric Plinske shows a before-and-after picture of Jeff Boyer, who won the Most Amazing Transformation prize in the first-ever "Body Success Challenge." Inset shows the before and after photos of another contestant, *Saipan Tribune* columnist Janel Villegas, who won second place.

Fitness and weight loss takes time and dedication, Gold's Gym co-owner Eric Plinske told the members of the Rotary Club during their weekly meeting yesterday.

Plinske was at the meeting to discuss the results of the first-ever "Body Success Challenge" that ended last week.

The 29 people who completed the challenge dedicated themselves to becoming healthier, he said.

"What you'll see about all these folks is they have different lifestyles and different challenges," he said, adding that they all made the time to change their bodies.

"You see here it can be done," he said. "Even if you are busy, you can do it like these guys did."

Some of the participants made it a family affair or worked out with significant others, he said.

He said The Body Success Challenge is just the first step. It's important the participants continue with what they've learned, or else they might have to take part in the next competition in January, he added.

"I hope I don't see a bunch of these people back 20 pounds heavier," he said.

Plinske said the next challenge would be held in January to go along with the common New Year's resolution to lose weight. Hopefully, he added, it will push the challengers to follow through and not give up by February or March as a lot of people with New Year's resolutions tend to do.

"But once you do it for three months, you are able to make life long decisions," he said.

During yesterday's presentation, Plinske displayed before and after shots of some of the participants who took part in the challenge. There were two categories: weight loss and total body transformation. Winners received prize money and Gold's Gym memberships.

The winners of the women's weight loss category were:

■ 1st Place: Fe Mamuyac (lost 37.60 lbs; loss of 24.87 percent of initial body weight);

■ 2nd Place: Janel Villegas (lost 33.80 lbs; loss of 18.53 percent of initial body weight); and

■ 3rd Place: Celina Babauta (lost 24 lbs; loss of 14.67 percent of initial body weight).

The winners of the men's weight loss category were:

■ 1st Place: Jack Kiyoshi (lost 57.60 lbs; loss of 23.30 percent of initial body weight);

■ 2nd Place: David Attao (lost 65.20 lbs; loss of 18.94 percent of initial body weight); and

■ 3rd Place: Francis Mendiola (lost 52.80 lbs; loss of 16.49 percent of initial body weight).

The winner of the Most Amazing Transformation was Jeff Boyer (lost 20 lbs; loss of 10.96 percent of initial body weight; loss of 38.80 percent of initial body fat).

Northern Marianas College

Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu, Website: www.nmcnet.edu

INVITATION FOR BID
NMC No.: IFB 08-006
Procurement of Computers and Accessories

The Northern Marianas is soliciting for sealed competitive bids for procurement of 30 computer systems with accessories and software, 4 big flat screen television sets, 50 client access licenses. A bidder does not have to bid for all items listed in the specifications and scope of work package. All items must be deliverable within 60 days of award. In order to be considered for this transaction, all persons, firms or corporations responding to this request must provide information requested in the specifications and scope of work. Any bid/proposal received that does not provide the requested information may be rejected. Bids/proposals rejected will not be returned to the owner, but the owner will be notified.

Due Date/Time: **Wednesday, October 08th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.**

Specifications and Scope of Work may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan or the NMC Tinian Instructional Site Administrative Offices. Monday to Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Bid Packages are due Wednesday, October 08th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan or the NMC Rota Instructional Site Administrative Office. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with NMC Procurement Regulations, and in accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118; **"Local Business Preference"** is **available to local bidders** in this procurement. For bidders located **outside the CNMI**: You may request a copy of the Invitation for Bid via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu).

All bidders are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College and CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by:

/ss/ Duane R.T. Sablan
NMC, Acting Procurement Officer

/ss/ Adrian Atalig, Director
NMC Information Technology

United States
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Council on Developmental Disabilities
Call for Special Meeting

Attention General Public:

We the undersigned members, composing of a majority of the membership of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities are hereby calling for a Special Meeting to take place on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 9 am in the NMPASI Conference Room. The meeting is called upon based on the Council on Developmental Disabilities Bylaws (dated June 11, 2007 and January 31, 2003)

Agenda:

I. Welcoming Remarks

II. Roll Call

III. Establishment of Quorum

IV. Executive Session

V. Open Session

VI. Next Meeting

VII. Closure

Dutifully Authorized and Approved by:

Roger Abe, Marissa Guerrero, James Reyphand, Suzanne Lizama, Margarita Olopai-Taitano 9/10/08, David Attao, Edith Deleon Guerrero, Derek Buenas, Cynthia Attao, Howard Macaranas, Jeanette Aquino, Helen Sablan

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENOKO	010E	9/13 Sat	9/11 Thu	9/11 Thu	9/9 Tue	9/6 Sat	9/19 Fri	9/15 Mon	9/14 Sun	9/9 Tue	9/7 Sun	9/15 Mon	9/19 Fri	9/20 Sat	9/23 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	015E	9/20 Sat	9/18 Thu	9/18 Thu	9/16 Tue	9/13 Sat	9/26 Fri	9/22 Mon	9/21 Sun	9/14 Sun	9/14 Sun	9/22 Mon	9/26 Fri	9/27 Sat	9/30 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	023E	9/27 Sat	9/25 Thu	9/25 Thu	9/23 Tue	9/20 Sat	10/3 Fri	9/29 Mon	9/28 Sun	9/21 Sun	9/21 Sun	9/29 Mon	10/3 Fri	10/4 Sat	10/7 Tue
MELL SENOKO	011E	10/4 Sat	10/2 Thu	10/2 Thu	9/30 Tue	9/27 Sat	10/10 Fri	10/6 Mon	10/5 Sun	9/28 Sun	9/28 Sun	10/6 Mon	10/10 Fri	10/11 Sat	10/14 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	016E	10/11 Sat	10/9 Thu	10/9 Thu	10/7 Tue	10/4 Sat	10/17 Fri	10/13 Mon	10/12 Sun	10/5 Sun	10/5 Sun	10/13 Mon	10/17 Fri	10/18 Sat	10/21 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	024E	10/18 Sat	10/16 Thu	10/16 Thu	10/14 Tue	10/11 Sat	10/24 Fri	10/20 Mon	10/19 Sun	10/12 Sun	10/12 Sun	10/20 Mon	10/24 Fri	10/25 Sat	10/28 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENOKO	010E	9/27 Sat	9/28 Sun	9/28 Sun	9/30 Tue	10/2 Thu	10/3 Fri	10/4 Sat	10/7 Tue	10/10 Fri	10/11 Sat	10/16 Thu	10/14 Tue	10/12 Sun	10/15 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	015E	10/4 Sat	10/5 Sun	10/5 Sun	SKIP	10/9 Thu	10/10 Fri	10/11 Sat	10/14 Tue	10/17 Fri	10/18 Sat	10/23 Thu	10/21 Tue	10/19 Sun	10/22 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	023E	10/11 Sat	10/12 Sun	10/12 Sun	10/14 Tue	10/16 Thu	10/17 Fri	10/18 Sat	10/21 Tue	10/24 Fri	10/25 Sat	10/30 Thu	10/28 Tue	10/26 Sun	10/29 Wed
MELL SENOKO	011E	10/18 Sat	10/19 Sun	10/19 Sun	SKIP	10/23 Thu	10/24 Fri	10/25 Sat	10/28 Tue	10/31 Fri	11/1 Sat	11/6 Thu	11/25 Tue	11/23 Sun	11/5 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	016E	10/25 Sat	10/26 Sun	10/26 Sun	10/28 Tue	10/30 Thu	10/31 Fri	11/1 Sat	11/4 Tue	11/7 Fri	11/8 Sat	11/13 Thu	12/2 Tue	11/30 Sun	11/12 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	024E	11/1 Sat	11/2 Sun	11/2 Sun	SKIP	11/6 Thu	11/7 Fri	11/8 Sat	11/11 Tue	11/14 Fri	11/15 Sat	11/20 Thu	12/9 Tue	12/7 Sun	11/19 Wed

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Edgar T. Garcia
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Direct line (670) 236-2422

Jaime P. Salazar
Outbound
Direct line (670) 236-2410

Robert Reyes
Sales and Marketing
Direct line (670) 236-2403

CTSI Logistics
Moving the world

HOSPITALITY CLASS
Hospitality majors from the Northern Marianas College visit the Marianas Visitors Authority office to learn about the CNMI's tourism industry. Pictured with the students are managing director Perry Tenorio, standing left, and NMC Hospitality instructor Larry Lee, standing right.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MVA, Asiana to host agents' tour

The Marianas Visitors Authority and Asiana Airlines will hold a familiarization tour for travel agents from Sept. 26 to 29 on the islands of Saipan and Rota. The goal of the tour is to promote new golf travel to the islands as well as to further enhance relationships with major travel agents in Korea. The group will include 10 major agents including Hana Tour, Mode Tour, Redcap Tour, Tour2000, Tourmall, Very Good Tour, YB Tour, CJ Worldis, OK Tour, and Lotte JTB.

The Kumho-Asiana group's goal for this tour is the promotion of the Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort. MVA believes that this familiarization tour—called FAM tour in the business—will give travel agents a first-hand experience of the various attractions in the Northern Mariana Islands and help them develop golf travel package products that will send the tourists to both Saipan and Rota.

Korea has a huge "golf travel" market, and it is still expanding rapidly. In 2007, 1.14 million Korean travelers went overseas for golfing and spent KRW 2,074,800,000,000 or US $1,851,266,194. This figure includes the accommodation fees associated with the golfing packages. Compared to 2006, the number of golf travelers jumped by 79.4 percent and the spending by 82 percent. Korean golfers are flying out because of the expensive green fees in Korea and the limited number of golf courses near Seoul, which makes it difficult to make reservations. Capturing a larger portion of these overseas golfers would help boost not only the number of tourists from Korea, but the revenue per head as well.

"We look forward to having these agents in the CNMI," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Korean arrivals continue to play an important role in the CNMI tourism economy and we look forward to continued support and growth from this market." ***(MVA)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB08-REV-099

OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2008 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PRINTING OF THE 2008 FORM W-2CM, 2008 FORM OS-3710 AND 2008 SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORMS W-2CM/OS-3710 FOR THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION, CENTRAL OFFICE, DANDAN COMMERCIAL CENTER, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. **PLEASE CONTACT MS. FRANCES ADA OR MS. DELCINA TUDELA AT (670) 664-1000/98 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **ELOY S. INOS**
Secretary of Finance

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

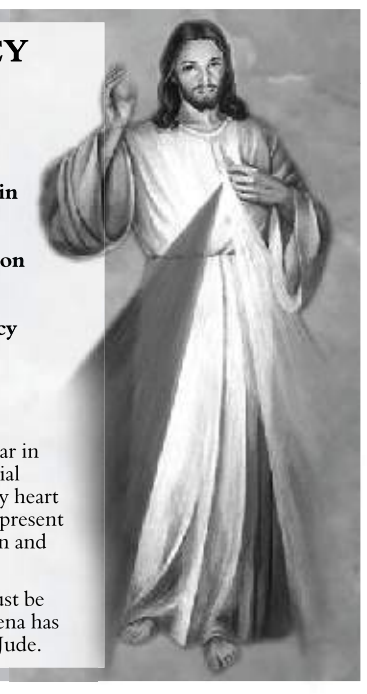
THE CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY
(to be recited on ordinary rosary beads)

Begin with:
Our Father..., Hail Mary The Apostles' Creed.
Then, on the OUR FATHER BEADS you will say the following words:
Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.
On the HAIL MARY BEADS you will say the following words:
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
In conclusion, THREE TIMES you will recite these words:
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

NOVENA TO **St. Jude**

O holy St. Jude, Apostle & Martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in Kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke Your special patronage in time of need. To You I have recoursed from the depth of my heart & humbly begged great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and most urgent petition. In return, I promise to make Your name known and cause You to be invoked.

Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Mary's and Glory Be's. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us all who invoke your aid, Amen. This Novena has never been known to fail. I have had my request granted. Thank you St. Jude.



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-08-2295

To: **Provide Local Public Relations and Media Services**

Closing Date: **September 26, 2008** Time: **3:00 p.m.** (Saipan Time)

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the MVA office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday) except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

DEQ sets Unai Dangkulu cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality's cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point (Unai Dangkulu beach).

Persons who would like to volunteer their time to clean and beautify the island can join brigade members on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008, at 8am.

Volunteers will clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continues, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

"This is a cleanup that should not be missed, so join DEQ's cleanup brigade and 'Pick It Up!' Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy," said DEQ in a statement.

Volunteers removed 420 lbs of debris from Wing Beach on Sept. 6. The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 24, 1999

U.S. Navy turns over land to NMI
The planned expansion of the West Tinian Airport moved a step closer to implementation after the U.S. Navy and the CNMI government yesterday signed an agreement formally turning over some 1,500 acres of land in the island municipality of Tinian. In exchange for the return of the land, CPA has agreed to grant the U.S. military the use of the airport as well as landing rights.

Gov't overtime pay down 67 percent
The Tenorio administration has pared down overtime pay for government personnel by some 67 percent over the past two years that translated to savings of more than $8 million. In a report released yesterday as part of a series of analysis on public spending, the Department of Finance said departments and agencies forced between 33 percent to 100 percent reduction in overtime costs in line with the austerity measures.

CNMI to submit recommendations to Congress
The government will submit within two weeks specific recommendations on the legislation extending federal immigration laws to the Northern Marianas for consideration by the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said he is working with his staff to come up with the comments in response to a request from Chairman Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) during the September 14 hearing in Washington D.C.

September 24, 2001

Continental Micronesia cuts 250 jobs
Continental Airlines furloughed 250 employees from its Micronesian operations due to the sharp decline in air travel as a result of the September 11 attacks on New York and the Pentagon. The Houston-based airline company said official notices of termination will be handed down this week to about 12,000 employees, including the 250 Continental Micronesia employees. Days after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon early this month, US-based carriers announced massive reduction in operations in anticipation of the slump in air travel demands.

Labor department tightens ATB, re-entry requirements
The Department of Labor and Immigration is steadfastly monitoring all entries into the CNMI, announcing last week that all Authorization to Board and Re-entry letters will not be honored unless signed by DOLI Secretary Mark D. Zachares. The labor department came out with the memorandum in light of the recent terrorist attacks in New York and Washington DC.

Garment sector sees 10% fall in revenues
With the way things are shaping up at the moment, the CNMI's breadwinning sector-the garment industry-will most likely post a 10-percent decrease in earnings. Richard Pierce, president of the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said that, by year's end, the garment industry will have suffered two successive declines in annual sales and taxes contributed to the government's coffers.

September 24, 2002

Measures eyed to aid businesses
Rep. Andrew S. Salas is currently drafting proposed measures intended to promote a business-friendly environment and more importantly, assist local businesses during these very trying economic times. Salas, chair of the House Committee on Commerce, is proposing that the imposition of excise taxes on CNMI businesses be suspended until January 2003, an approach which the state of Hawaii has reportedly already adopted.

Inos meets with US Educ Secretary
Education Commissioner Dr. Rita H. Inos was among the first batch of the nation's education superintendents and commissioners to dialogue with U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige on issues relating to the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The open discussion, held at the U.S. Department of Education headquarters in Washington D.C. last week, reportedly turned out to be a forum where education administrators raised concerns over each state and territory's struggles in meeting the mandates of the law.

CNMI State Rehabilitation Council

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 501521 SAIPAN, MP 96950,
TEL:(670)322-6538 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 E -MAIL: voc. rehab@saipan. coin

PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Joint Meeting (SILC and SRC)
Fiesta Resort – Azuzena Room
Sept. 25, 2008 @ 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Welcome & Introduction

II. Nature of Annual Joint Council's Meeting

III. Accomplishment Reports
- SILC Chairperson
- SRC Chairperson
- OVR Director

IV. Mutual Projects
- accessibility & accommodation issues for consumers
- identification of funding sources
- Resource Plan
- 2008 Nat'l Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

V. Schedule of 2009 Joint Council Meeting

VI. Announcements/Miscellaneous

VII. Adjournment

Jerry McVicar
SILC Chairperson

Gregorio C. Sablan (Kilili)
SRC Chairperson

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Request for Proposal
RFP 09-002

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Procurement of Janitorial Services for School Cafeterias**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-002" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **October 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-002, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P & S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CJPA - CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center

Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is announcing the availability of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These Grant Programs includes the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG); Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT); Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP); Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) which are programs of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program under the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

A brief description and amounts available for each program are listed below, less planning and administrative costs stipulated under each programs and are allotted to CJPA as the Designated State Administering Agency (DSAA) for these programs in the CNMI.

I. Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant: FY2008 $335,945.00.
Proposed as a mechanism to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the JAG Program allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions. JAG replaces the previous Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) Programs with a single funding mechanism to provide agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and place justice funds where they are needed most, and simplifies the administration process for grantees. The JAG purpose areas are: Law Enforcement Programs, Prosecution and Court Programs, Prevention and Education Programs, Corrections and Community Corrections Programs, Drug Treatment Programs and Planning, Evaluation, Technology Improvement Programs, and Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation). Any law enforcement or justice initiative previously eligible for funding under Byrne or LLEBG is eligible for JAG funding.

Funds under this program may be used to support the hiring, training, and employing of additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel on a continuing basis. Furthermore, funds can be used to procure equipment, technology, and other material directly related to basic law enforcement functions, as well as establishing crime prevention programs involving cooperation between community residents and law enforcement personnel to control, detect, or investigate crime or to prosecute criminals.

II. Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program: FY 2008: $32,585
The primary purpose of the RSAT program is to assist states and units of local government in developing and implementing residential substance abuse treatment programs within state and local correctional and detention facilities in which prisoners are incarcerated for a period of time sufficient to permit substance abuse treatment. Funds under this program may be used to implement residential substance abuse programs that provide individual and group treatment activities for offenders in residential facilities operated by state and local correctional agencies. The FY'08 grant proposes to use 7% for administration and 93% to fund direct services for the RSAT program. This program, which involves drug testing, calls for collaborative efforts among the Department of Corrections, Parole, Probation, and the Division of Mental Health and Social Services. The intended recipient of this program is the Department of Corrections.

III. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Program
The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Grants are made available by the Department of Justice to fund programs that address Youth Development, Juvenile Justice System Improvements, and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. The purpose for this category is to provide pre-delinquent or "at-risk" youth and status offenders with activities which will help to develop in them a sense of participation and responsibility to the community as well as develop a sense of self-respect and self-worth. Such programs or projects may include community service, anti-drug abuse projects & activities, outward bound type projects, youth centers, outreach, survival education, counseling, and other activities which foster the above characteristics. Included in this category are programs and projects that promote participation in organized activities, better self- image and self-esteem, and programs that instill community involvement and a sense of belonging which recreational activities may be a significant part of the overall program.

1. Title II Formula Grant: FY 2006: $13,666.00. FY2008: $45,000.00
The OJJDP Title II grants are made available to specifically fund programs that address Youth Development, Juvenile Justice System Improvement, and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program have four core-requirements. They are: 1) Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders; 2) Sight and Sound Separation between juvenile and adult inmates; 3) Complete Jail Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups and 4) The Disproportionate Minority Contact issue. Beyond these requirements, these funds can be used for services targeted at juvenile delinquency prevention through education, training, recreation and other rehabilitative services.

2. Title V Delinquency Prevention Program: FY2007 $23,821.00. FY2008: $11,494.00.
Established in the 1992 through the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, the Title V grant program is made available to funds collaborative and community-based delinquency prevention efforts. The program integrates six (6) fundamental principles and they are: comprehensive and multidisciplinary approaches, research foundation for planning, community control and decision-making, leveraging of resources and systems, evaluation to monitor program progress and effectiveness, and a long-term perspective to form a strategic approach to reducing juvenile delinquency. Title V provides funding and a framework to enable communities to develop and implement comprehensive 3-year prevention/strategic plans that are designed to reduce risk factors associated with delinquency and decrease juvenile problem behavior.

3. Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG): FY2007 $50,348.00 and FY2008 $53,127.00.
The JABG grant program is authorized under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 2002 as amended. As envisioned by Congress, the goal of the JABG program is to reduce juvenile offending through supporting accountability-based programs that focus on offenders and state and local juvenile justice systems. The basic premise underlying the JABG program is that both the juvenile offender and the juvenile justice system must be held accountable. In implementing the program, OJJDP seeks to reduce juvenile offending through both offender-focused and system-focused activities that promote accountability. For the juvenile justice system, strengthening the system requires an increased capacity to develop youth competence, to efficiently track juveniles through the system, and to provide enhanced options such as restitution, community service, victim-offender mediation, and other restorative justice sanctions that reinforce the mutual obligations of an accountability-based juvenile justice system.

Pre-qualified agencies mentioned below, must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals and objectives will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs in order to use their awards.

- Under the JABG FY 07, these agencies or categories are allotted the following amounts: ***DPS-JPU: $8,000.00; DYS-JPU: $8,000.00; DYS-JDU: $8,000.00; PDO: $8,000.00; OAG: $8,000.00; FCD-Pre-Trial: $5,348.00; YAC-JJTF: $5,000.00.***
- Under the JABG FY 08, these agencies or categories are allotted the following amounts: ***DPS-JPU: $9,000.00; DYS-JPU: $9,000.00; DYS-JDU: $8,127.00; PDO: $9,000.00; OAG: $9.000.00; FCD-Pre-Trial: $9,000.00.***

4. Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Grant: FY2008 $332.500.00
Awarded to all territories including CNMI for FY 08, the OJJDP Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) grant program are funds made available to supports and enhances efforts by states and territories to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and the purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors. (Minors are defined as individuals under 21 years of age.) Pre-qualified agencies mentioned below, must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals and objectives will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs in order to use their awards.

Under EUDL FY 08, these agencies or categories are allotted the following amounts:
Law Enforcement DPS-EUDL: $100,000.00; Prosecution OAG-EUDL: $50,000.00; YAC-JJTF: $47,500.00; The following amounts will be available to most qualified applicant(s) that will conduct and/or implement EUDL programs under these purpose areas: Innovative Programs: $95,000.00; Public Advertising: $40,000.00.

IV. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Assistance Formula Program: FY2008 $263,150
Established in 1984, the VOCA, Office for Victims of Crime oversee diverse programs that benefit victims of crime. The OVC through VOCA grant program provides funding to support state and territory victim assistance and compensation programs, which are the lifeline services that help victims to heal. Funds made available through VOCA assistance program supports trainings designed to educate criminal justice and allied professionals regarding the rights and needs of crime victims. Included in this category, funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assaults, survivors of homicide and other crime victims.

V. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Formula Grant Programs: FY2007 $558,808.20 and FY2008 $560,274.30
The Office on Violence Against Women, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, provides national leadership in developing the nation's capacity to reduce violence against women through the implementation of the Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP), VAWA. Established by legislation, funds through VAWA formula grant, are made available to support effort in developing programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in state, local, and tribal partnerships among police, prosecutors, victim advocates, health care providers, faith leaders, and others. STOP-VAWA grant programs provide assistance for victims through protection and services that they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while simultaneously enabling communities to hold offenders accountable for their violence. In consistence with the STOP program requirements "CNMI Three Year Implementation Plan", STOP-VAWA grant funds are made available to support law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and the Superior Court in the CNMI.

Pre-qualified agencies mentioned below, must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals, objectives and activities will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs.

- Under the VAWA FY 07, these categories and agencies are allotted the following amounts: ***30% Victim Services: $167,642.46; 30%; Prosecution, Office of Attorney General: $167,642.46; 25% Law Enforcement, DPS: $139,702.05; 5% Superior Courts: $27,940.41; 10% Discretionary: $55,880.82***
- Under the VAWA FY 08, these categories and agencies are allotted the following amounts: ***30% Non-profit Organizations: $168,082.29; 30% Prosecution, Office of Attorney General: $168,082.29; 25% Law Enforcement, DPS: $140,068.57; 5% Superior Courts: $28,013.72; 10% Discretionary: $56,027.43***

The available funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant review process and plan consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned DOJ programs. Sub-grant applicants under OJJDP funds will be awarded by the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) with the concurrence-approval of the Supervisory Council. Projects funded under these programs will be monitored and administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. The Youth Advisory Council and the Supervisory Council are expected to meet early November 2008 and will be announced.

All applications must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 p.m. October 24, 2008.

For Tinian and Rota Applications Only:
Complete and full applications submitted from Rota and Tinian will be accepted by fax following the deadline said above, including a "must" be submitted hardcopy via air waybill with the deadline said above stamped or recorded on the "executed on date and time" section of the air waybill. Incomplete application(s) send in by fax will not be accepted.

For more information and for interested applicants, please contact the CJPA at 664-4550/4551/4553/4554/4556 or stop by the Office on Capitol Hill (House #1314 or #1315) Also, the application format is available through the CJPA Web Site at www.cjpa.gov.mp for use. Please indicate and specify which grant and year you are applying for on the application. If necessary, please call Mr. Jerome Ierome, Executive Director at 664-4550.

/s/ Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ Mr. Jerome Ierome
Executive Director, CJPA

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Rights for the disabled: Congress approves landmark protections for disabled workers

It went largely unnoticed in a week of economic upheaval, but Congress approved one of the more momentous pieces of civil rights legislation in recent years. The bill, passed overwhelmingly in the House and by unanimous consent in the Senate, will significantly broaden protections for the disabled. It instructs the Supreme Court to act "in favor of broad coverage," a distinction that should make it easier for disabled workers to claim discrimination. By explicitly arguing for a less constrictive interpretation, lawmakers sought to restore the intent of the original Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990; the Supreme Court has imposed a consistently narrow interpretation of the ADA. President Bush has said that he will sign the bill into law despite previous concerns that the legislation would spur excess litigation.

The legislation is the result of two years of remarkable cooperation between business groups and disability rights organizations. The compromise strikes a balance as it guarantees rights for workers with "actual or perceived impairments." For example, airlines can no longer discriminate against prospective pilots if the applicants employ "mitigating measures," such as corrective eyewear. At the same time, the bill limits unwarranted claims by requiring that workers prove they have a disability that "would substantially limit a major life activity when active." The bill will also provide protection, for the first time, to workers with serious ailments such as diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

Business and disability groups are pleased with the final version of the bill and said that collaborating on the legislation should reduce the number of lawsuits over its implementation. The direct language of the bill, and the laudable cooperation that forged it, should also improve employment levels for the disabled. Two out of three people with significant disabilities are unemployed, a disturbing statistic that disability organizations say is unchanged from when the original ADA became law. This time, Congress's intent is clear, and we hope the courts follow it.

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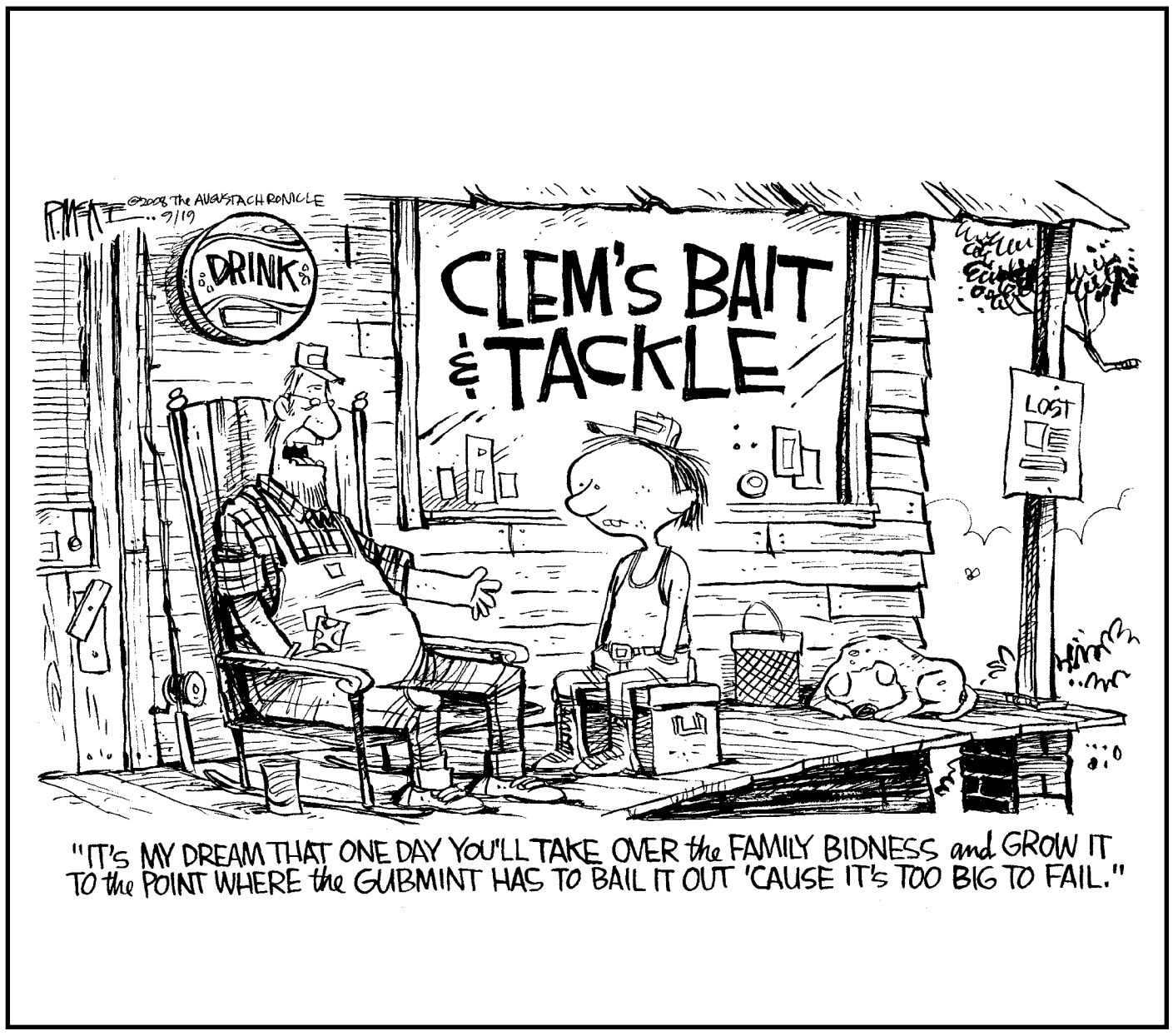
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DRINK
CLEM's BAIT & TACKLE
LOST
"IT's MY DREAM THAT ONE DAY YOU'LL TAKE OVER the FAMILY BIDNESS and GROW IT TO the POINT WHERE the GUBMINT HAS TO BAIL IT OUT 'CAUSE IT's TOO BIG TO FAIL."

When a new president inherits a mess

By TED WIDMER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

After a nerve-rattling week in which the U.S. financial system was shaken to the core, here's a simple question: Why on Earth would anyone *want* to be president right now?

Even in the best of times, it's a grueling job. But the problems of 2008 seem unusually intractable, and despite the fine talk one sometimes hears about reconciliation, the electorate will be divided no matter who wins in November. Even Bush's snarkiest critics would have had trouble predicting all the rough weather of the second term, from Hurricane Katrina to the smoldering wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the bursting of the housing bubble, the financial meltdown and the Recession That Dare Not Speak Its Name. Would any sane person want to inherit this?

Of course, even to pose that question assumes that candidates for the nation's highest office are normal reasoning creatures. Most of us would pause before spending millions of dollars to travel thousands of miles to eat hundreds of chicken dinners with people who snipe at our clothes, our hair cuts and our every public utterance. Losing is no fun, but is winning even worse? "Being president is like being a jackass in a hailstorm," Lyndon B. Johnson once said. "There's nothing to do but to stand there and take it."

So what does it mean to inherit the presidency in an hour of crisis? Historically, it has usually meant a push to reverse the last fellow's policies. That holds true even in relatively tranquil times. In 2001, for instance, the incoming Bush team, which scorned its predecessors as ineffectual, weak and morally compromised, made a mantra of the term "ABC" ("Anything But Clinton"). Their contempt was so thorough that a satirical headline in a story about the inauguration in the Onion read, "Bush: `Our Long National Nightmare of Peace and Prosperity Is Finally Over.' "

Ironically, the outgoing Bush team may be in for similar treatment from the next crowd. With about 80 percent of the electorate saying that the country is on the wrong track, it doesn't take a brilliant tactician to suggest that a new direction would work well for either Barack Obama or John McCain. ("ABB" isn't terribly catchy; perhaps "ABBA," for "Anything But Bush Administration," might work better in the year of "Mamma Mia"?) As even McCain's campaign makes clear, anti-Bushism is likely to be the refrain of the early months of 2009, no matter who is elected.

But how well does rejecting the policies of one's predecessor work? Here's the historian's answer: pretty well. A glance at other difficult presidential transitions shows that in nearly every case—though not quite all of them—the presidency that came after a troubled one succeeded, in both senses of the word. And it usually did so by taking a brisk 180-degree turn.

The tradition of trampling on the last guy's policies is nearly as old as the presidency itself. It was hard for John Adams to improve upon George Washington, but it was easy for Thomas Jefferson's crowd to blast Adams. Abraham Lincoln started off under the worst conditions imaginable, but his majestic first inaugural address sent a clear message that James Buchanan's prevarications were a thing of the past. Grover Cleveland, the only president in history to succeed two different men, was able to declare a new beginning not once, but twice.

After Lincoln's, no presidency began under darker clouds than Franklin D. Roosevelt's. The U.S. financial system was in vastly worse shape than it is even today, totalitarianism was looming abroad, and the New York Stock Exchange had actually shut down. But Roosevelt knew that Herbert Hoover had given him, in FDR's own words, "an easy act to follow." On that dark inaugural day in 1933, the new president was only five sentences into his maiden speech when the sonorous attack on "fear itself" came; nothing was the same after that. Roosevelt launched a sustained attack on Hoover's laissez-faire policies; there's a reason he called the New Deal new.

Twenty years later, Dwight D. Eisenhower was able to inflict something of a GOP comeuppance on the Democrats at another anxious turning point in U.S. history. The beleaguered Truman administration was reeling from the Korean War, the Alger Hiss spy scandal, a housing crisis and the public's exhaustion with Democratic dominance. In 1952, Eisenhower became unbeatable simply by rising above these problems and promising to "go to Korea."

In office, Ike seemed to rescue the presidency. The moderate course he promised built confidence among Democrats as well as Republicans, and his personal probity let citizens hope for a new era free of influence-peddling and partisan attacks. Within two years of his inauguration, many of Harry S. Truman's worst problems had disappeared: The Korean situation stabilized, McCarthyism died an unmourned death, and Americans settled in for a long summer of prosperity in the middle of the 20th century.

In 1981, with the country in another deep funk after four years of stagflation, international setbacks and Jimmy Carter, Ronald

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EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

'Reject TGCC nominations'

Honorable Antonio H. Borja,
Chairman, Twelfth Tinian Municipal Council

This is my testimony on the nomination of two new members to the Tinian Gaming Control Commission by Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, as requested in your posted public notice of Sept. 22, 2008.

In short, the appointments are an unnecessary expense to the Tinian Municipal Fund at this time and should be rejected.

First, the existing three members of the TGCC have demonstrated their ability to manage the affairs of the Tinian Gaming Control Commission at this time. Only when the term of one of the existing members expires will a replacement become necessary.

Second it would be injudicious on the part of the Tinian Municipal Council to act on increasing the expenses of the Tinian Gaming Control Commission at a time of declining revenues. Adding two $75,000 employees to a limited payroll means that there will be $150,000 less to share among the low-paid career TGCC employs who *are* necessary.

With all due respect, the Tinian Municipal Council would look foolish if they were to agree to the mayor's request for additional Gaming Commission members, until such time as the mayor submits a final detailed account of his expenditures since taking office and a legitimate budget for FY 2009, just as you and Senator Mendiola, Chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, requested earlier this year.

You and Senator Mendiola wrote to the Tinian Municipal Treasurer on April 18, requesting the final detailed expenditure report for 2007 be delivered to you "no later than April 25." In your words, "It is important that we receive your report or analysis, in order to be appraised of the financial status of our municipal government before we pass a new local appropriation budget." This was the right thing to do and I commended you for it. Unfortunately, when the report did not arrive, Senator Mendiola extended your deadline to May 31 and nothing has transpired since. In short, the mayor has ignored the fiduciary responsibilities of both the Tinian Legislative Delegation and the Tinian Municipal Council.

Now the mayor has arrogantly tossed the ball back into your court, asking that you approve the nomination of his son and his consultant to the Gaming Commission. The Council has but two options. One, it can rubber stamp the appointments, as everyone expects. Or, and this is the option most people are hoping for, the Council members will remember their oath of office and their collective responsibility to the CNMI Constitution to act as the necessary check and balance on the power of the mayor. Indeed, the mayor has given the Tinian Municipal Council the opportunity to stand up boldly for what is right for the people of Tinian, by returning the mayor's appoints disapproved, demanding the expenditure reports, and beginning public hearings on a realistic Tinian Municipal Fund budget.

One way or the other, if the mayor continues to refuse to disclose his expenditures of the people's money, the Council will have no choice but to request that the CNMI Public Auditor examine the Tinian Municipal Fund immediately. That is the only way Tinian will be able to re-establish proper budgeting procedures.

Thank you for accepting my testimony.

Don A. Farrell
Tinian

The first forum for delegate bets in hindsight

I've just left the first forum for the candidates to the delegate seat of the U.S. Congress. I want to thank the Kagman Kommunidat Association for giving me and the other candidates an opportunity to come together and have our positions heard. It was very apparent that they put a lot of thought and effort into this event.

I am curious as to the purpose of the so-called exit poll conducted at the forum. As we were repeatedly warned, this was not a debate but a forum to share information. The poll seems to negate that premise.

I was originally skeptical of the format and I must say that I still didn't like the format. We only had one minute to answer the posed questions. This is the first federal election in the CNMI and the candidates had all of a minute to answer a question and all of seven minutes to talk about themselves or their positions. I shouldn't complain because this was an occasion for people to learn a little about me. The media certainly seems to have taken no notice of this locally historic adventure and this was an opportunity to at least be seen by the public.

In any case, I'm really more of a debate kind of guy; however, I did learn some things about the other candidates that I think are worth sharing. I learned that Kilili has given this election some thought and probably has a genuine interest in a positive future for the Commonwealth. He and I have differences on how we should get there, but at least the destination is the same. I learned that Pete A. wants to do the right thing but has all of this party baggage to drag around. I also learned that he thinks that his experience for the past six years make him the best candidate. Now, it must also be said that he has had a burden around his neck in the form of the governor, but I'm still not sure that I would call his tenure in Washington thus far a success. I learned that Judge Lizama is running for the delegate seat because a friend of his isn't. Huh? I learned that Congressman Cing is a political party man through and through. I learned that he has no concept of the power of the independents and the Congressional Black Caucus members that serve in the U.S. Congress. I learned that Chong Won doesn't understand how federal grants work. Neither does he understand how legislation works at the U.S. congressional level. I re-learned that I couldn't say anything in one minute. One minute is warm up for me. I learned that of all the candidates, John Gonzales is the one that most definitely should NOT represent the CNMI in the U.S. Congress. That is unless you want an unprincipled individual to represent us. The young man spoke at length of his stellar qualities, his principles, his integrity and his respect. He agreed with the rule to make no attacks on any of the candidates. He lied. At his first opportunity he launched into a diatribe on the shortcomings of each of the past political leaders running for office. The only people spared were Chong Won and me. When I spoke to him about it he said he appreciated my opinion. *My opinion?* The man went back on his word, period. My point is this. If he will lie about a small thing like that in order to try to get elected, what other questionable shortcomings does he have?

John H. Davis Jr.
Fina Sisu, Saipan

Hypocrisy at its worst

Kudos to Rep. Tina Sablan for shedding light on the taxpayers' burden of paying the power bills for the Governor and Lt. Governor, not to mention the millions of dollars paid by the taxpayers to support all the other perks enjoyed by the governmental elite. Regardless of CNMI law allowing for these perks, laws can be changed to suit the times. The government keeps claiming that they are broke. Yet, still they enjoy unfettered perks in this time of austerity. This is hypocrisy at its worst.

Let the elite (who undoubtedly have significantly more funds than 99 percent of the hardworking taxpayers) decline the extravagant perks and place that money into education, health, and the rotting infrastructure. The government is not broke...the people are. And speaking of doing right for the CNMI, many ask why the Governor is fighting so hard against any federalization, in the face of such tremendous opposition. Has there been any *legitimate* reason given for suing the U.S. (other than wasting taxpayers money)? It begs the question of what *really* is going on. Many folks are whispering the obvious: if the Feds come in they would undoubtedly go through the books. And what would they find? Is there something the Governor and his people are trying to hide? The public outcry against this administration is so loud that it's a wonder he has not yet been impeached. Or fled the island. Certainly, it becomes obvious that much is going on behind closed doors and none of it for the benefit of the citizens. I welcome the Feds to come in and lay bare the political corruption and lack of an honest and transparent government. Let's see who are the heroes of the CNMI and who are the corrupt officials who have forsook the hardworking citizens for their own greed and dishonesty.

William "Bill" Weiss
Puerto Rico, Saipan

WHEN

From Page 10

Reagan borrowed from the example of his hero, FDR. Reagan was a natural anti-Carter—a fact driven home on Inauguration Day, when Iran released the U.S. hostages it had been holding since Nov. 4, 1979.

Reagan did an about-face, and the public loved it. He could hardly take a false step during his early months, as seen in both his natural grace (most famously in his gallantry after surviving an assassination attempt) and his ability to bring some steel to the Oval Office (consider his confrontation with the air traffic controllers, a showdown that further bolstered his reputation as the anti-Carter). At the same time, he showed some willingness to reach across the aisle and made steady progress toward his ambitious goals of reducing the federal budget, lowering taxes and raising the defense budget. As the historian Sean Wilentz notes, "Not since President James K. Polk came to office in 1845 had any president succeeded in winning so much of his announced agenda so quickly."

But the formula of reversing a predecessor's policy doesn't always work so neatly. Consider Richard M. Nixon, who took over in 1969 from Lyndon Johnson, the miserable war president sunk by Vietnam. Nixon's presidency got off to a much better start than most of us remember. In his recent book, "Nixonland," historian Rick Perlstein reveals the surprisingly deferential treatment the new commander in chief received from the mainstream media (including The Washington Post and The New York Times), which persistently used such words as "cool," "confident" and "efficient" to describe him. To some extent, this was the natural result of national exhaustion with Johnson's bloated ego and bankrupt policies, which Nixon seemed to be reversing.

Vietnam was a harder problem to solve than Iraq, and in the early days, Nixon made real headway. Surprisingly, he showed a peacenik side, installing Woodrow Wilson's desk in his Oval Office, citing his mother's Quakerism in speech after speech and appearing to tamp down U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia—a far cry from LBJ. His first budget proposed to reduce defense spending by $1.1 billion, and soon The New York Times could announce that "public pressure over the war has almost disappeared." When the first Americans landed on the moon in July 1969, Nixon was there to reap the credit. For a while, it seemed as if the sky was literally the limit to his political fortunes.

But of course, the story didn't end there. We now know that Nixon's reversal was incomplete and that he was giving in to his uglier instincts from the beginning. His apparent disengagement from Indochina was fatally undercut by his secret bombing of Cambodia: Starting in 1969, according to historian Larry Berman, more than 3,875 sorties were launched with no notification to Congress. From that evasion came a never-ending stream of others, as well as a secret administration apparatus designed to conceal as many of them as possible. "We cannot escape history," Lincoln once said. Nixon proved the point by failing to separate himself from his predecessor as cleanly as he thought he had.

History cannot tell us who the 44th president will be. But history does suggest that a new commander in chief who charts a sharply different course from Bush will find an awfully receptive audience, at least in the early going. The next president will face daunting odds, trying to resolve two thorny conflicts, dismantle al-Qaida, halt nuclear proliferation, contain a resurgent Russia, fight global warming and wring prosperity out of a battered economy.

But the best lesson history can teach is that success is always temporary. Bush's successor should of course steer away from the last administration—that is a given. But he should also resist the too-easy temptation of letting the last administration shape the next one, if only by showing it what not to do. Instead, the next president should combine FDR's "bold, persistent experimentation" with Eisenhower's prudent handling of a nasty Asian war and Reagan's intoxicating optimism. Inauguration Day is still months away, but history suggests that today's storm clouds can part nearly as quickly as they formed—given the right combination of luck, vision and endless adaptation.

Ted Widmer, a former speechwriter for President Bill Clinton, is the author of Ark of the Liberties: America and the World. *E-mail him at ted_widmer@brown.edu.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

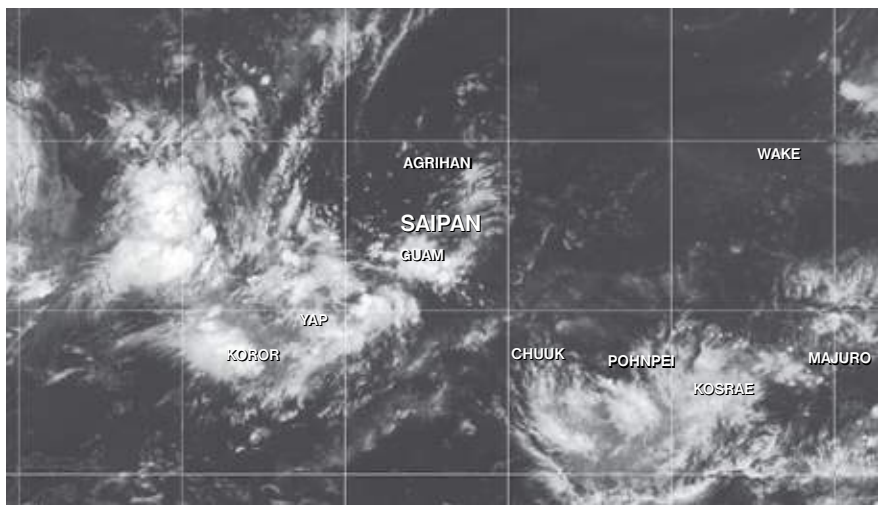
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼70
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼73

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼51
Beijing	Showers	▲56	▼50
Hong Kong	Rain	▲84	▼82
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲84	▼74
London	Showers	▲63	▼49
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Melbourne	Sunny	▲66	▼55
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼76
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼57
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼66
Paris	Cloudy	▲63	▼50
Pusan	Showers	▲77	▼71
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲71	▼53
Salem	Showers	▲70	▼51
San Francisco	Sunny	▲76	▼55
Seoul	Showers	▲69	▼64
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲76	▼63
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲74	▼56

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends east-southeast across a large portion of the discussion area from Luzon through 17N130E to a developing circulation near Yap at 10N140E to a weak circulation near Kosrae. Convergent low level winds into the circulation near Yap combined with divergent flow aloft is generating widespread showers and a few thunderstorms from 8N to 12N between 136E and 144E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the circulation by Kosrae are found within 80 miles of 5N163E. Low level convergence associated with the monsoon trough combined with broad upper level diffluence is producing widespread cloudiness and spotty areas of convection in Pohnpei state south of 7N between 153E and 165E. Trade wind convergence is generating scattered showers in the Marshall Islands within 100 miles either side of a line from 6N166E to 7N178E. This area includes Majuro. Divergent upper level winds associated with a tutt cell north of Saipan near 19N145E is enhancing shower activity in the southern Marianas within 100 miles of 13N145E. Divergent flow south of an upper low near 23N130E is also producing scattered showers west of 132E between 12N and 19N.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:13AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:20AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:05PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:17PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06AM	6:12 PM
Thursday	6:06AM	6:11 PM
Friday	6:06AM	6:10 PM
Saturday	6:06AM	6:09 PM
Sunday	6:06AM	6:09 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:04AM	2:27PM
Thursday	2:05AM	3:15PM
Friday	3:04AM	3:59PM
Saturday	3:59AM	4:39PM
Sunday	4:52AM	5:16PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

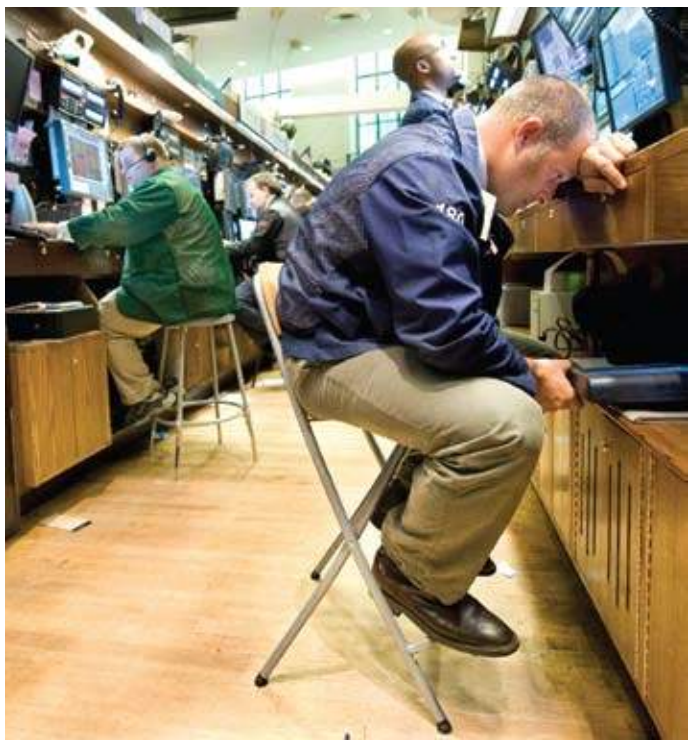
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Angst returns to Wall St., stocks dive, oil soars



AP

Trader Jason Weisberg, right, studies his handheld device as he works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Monday Sept. 22, 2008.

NEW YORK (AP)—After a brief spell of elation, angst has returned to Wall Street.

Financial markets' initial relief over a $700 billion U.S. government bailout plan has given way to concerns the rescue package may cost too much, drive up inflation, swell the already-bloated deficit and hurt the ailing economy.

On Monday, investors sold off stocks, sent oil prices to their biggest one-day gain and dumped the dollar.

The Dow Jones industrials lost 372 points, wiping out the gains the index made Friday after administration officials and congressional leaders promised swift action to get bad debt off the books of banks and end the financial crisis.

"Investors had a weekend to look at the news that was streaming out, and they are now finding fault in it," said Joseph Battipaglia, market strategist in the private client group at the investment firm Stifel Nicholaus.

Oil prices briefly spiked more than $25 a barrel before falling back to settle at $120.92, up $16.37, on the New York Mercantile Exchange. That shattered the previous record for a one-day jump in crude oil, $10.75.

Monday was also the last day for investors to trade the October oil futures contract, adding fuel to the rally. But the November contract also saw a sharp gain, up $6.62 to $109.37.

Markets appeared to calm somewhat overnight. In Asia, oil prices dipped below $109 a barrel Tuesday, while regional stock markets were mixed. Futures in the Dow industrials and Standard & Poor's 500, meanwhile, inched higher.

Reacting to Monday's volatile oil trading, the government agency that regulates commodities markets said it was working with Nymex to "ensure that no one is taking advantage of the current stresses facing our financial marketplace for their own manipulative gain."

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission said in a statement it was "closely monitoring today's large movement in the price of crude oil."

Analysts said some of the gain could have come from large investors trying to cover short positions, or bets that prices would fall.

Four days after word of a massive government rescue plan began to hit the market, investors had little by way of details. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson introduced the plan Saturday in a document that ran less than three full pages.

By Monday, investors still knew little about how the Bush administration would pay for mopping up the bad debt, how the process would work, who would run it and what the Democratic-controlled Congress would ask for to approve the plan.

Oil dips below $109 as traders mull bailout plan

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices dipped below $109 a barrel Tuesday in Asia in a choppy market driven by uncertainty about whether a $700 billion U.S. plan to buy bad mortgage debt will stabilize the financial system.

Oil prices had surged Monday in volatile trading, spiking more than $25 a barrel at one point, as investors fled to oil amid unease about the mammoth bailout plan.

"People are looking for a safe haven," said Gerard Burg, a minerals and energy analyst with National Australia Bank in Melbourne. "With all the volatility we've seen in the price, I don't know how much of a safe haven oil really is."

Light, sweet crude for November delivery was down 52 cents to $108.85 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange midday in Singapore. The contract rose overnight $6.62 to settle at $109.37.

The October contract, which expired Monday, surged as much as $25.45 to $130 a barrel before falling back to settle at $120.92, up $16.37.

The Bush Administration and congressional leaders are negotiating the proposal, which would rescue financial firms from hundreds of billions of debt that plummeted in value when housing prices began to fall in 2006.

Congress, Bush team agree on some bailout terms

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scrambling for a swift deal on the $700 billion bailout for failing financial firms, key Democrats and Bush administration officials agreed Monday to include mortgage help for beleaguered homeowners but wrangled over other issues, including "golden parachutes" for executives who benefit from the unprecedented rescue.

Democrats demanded that the measure limit pay packages for executives of companies helped by the biggest financial rescue since the Great Depression. The administration was balking at that, and also at a proposal by Democrats to let judges rewrite mortgages to lower bankrupt homeowners' monthly payments.

President Bush prodded Congress during the day to pass the rescue plan quickly, declaring, "The whole world is watching."

Rep. Barney Frank, the House Financial Services Committee chairman, said the administration essentially had forced Congress to the negotiating table by creating an expectation in financial markets that a massive bailout was on the way.

"By the declaration that they made, by sending this proposal, I think we have to recognize the reality that we don't have a choice now of debating whether this is a good or a bad thing," said Frank, D-Mass, who was leading negotiations with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Morgan Stanley to sell 20 pct stake in itself

NEW YORK (AP)—Investment bank Morgan Stanley said Monday it signed a letter of intent to sell up to 20 percent of the company to Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed. If the deal is completed, the price would be based on Morgan Stanley's book value after Japan's largest bank completes a due diligence review. The letter of intent signed by both banks is nonbinding. Based on the number of shares Morgan Stanley had outstanding as of June 30 and its midday trading price Monday, Morgan Stanley would raise more than $8 billion by selling new stock equal to 20 percent of shares that would be outstanding after including Mitsubishi's stake.

Microsoft to issue debt, buy back $40B in stock

SEATTLE (AP)—Chaos in the money markets gave Microsoft Corp. an opening Monday to announce it would take on debt for the first time, launch a new $40 billion stock buyback plan and raise its dividend. The moves indicate that for all the credit problems plaguing the financial sector, cash-laden technology companies with good credit ratings are still borrowing money on favorable terms and otherwise enjoying flexibility. The largest information-technology company, Hewlett-Packard Co., approved an $8 billion buyback plan Monday. And Intel Corp. Chairman Craig Barrett told The Associated Press that the chip maker—which boasted $11.5 billion in cash and $2.1 billion in debt at the end of the last quarter—was feeling no squeeze from the credit crunch.

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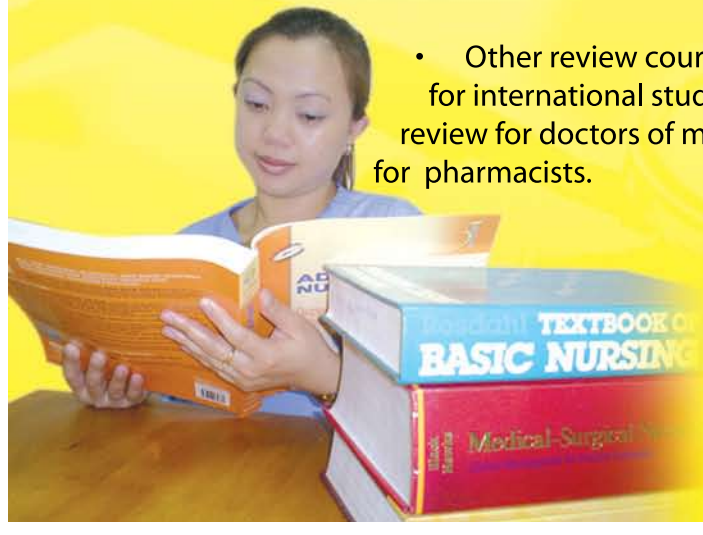

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Nation

Bush seeks to assure leaders about bailout plan

NEW YORK (AP)—President Bush sought to assure anxious world leaders on Monday that the United States is taking "bold, aggressive, decisive action" to rescue the crisis-ridden economy with a $700 billion bailout package. "The whole world is watching to see if we can act quickly," Bush said, prodding lawmakers in Washington to approve his plan.

Bush balanced the economic meltdown with foreign policy problems from Pakistan and North Korea to Russia and Iran as he opened three days of diplomacy with presidents and prime ministers assembled for the annual ministerial meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.

The activities were opening with a reception Monday night for foreign delegations hosted by Bush and his wife, Laura, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

After seven years of criticizing the U.N. for its huge, costly bureaucracy and indecisiveness in the face of grave problems, Bush will make his final address to the General Assembly on Tuesday. His speech, scheduled to last 15 minutes, was to stress the need for multinational diplomacy .

Bush

The nation's burgeoning financial crisis, anchored on Wall Street not far from Bush's hotel, overshadowed his U.N. visit. Bush is in the awkward position of advocating capitalism, free-trade and deregulation throughout this presidency but then overseeing a costly government takeover of failing financial institutions.

White House press secretary Dana Perino, explaining Bush's turnabout, said "this was not the president's first instinct; that he would not have wanted to take this action to help these companies if he wasn't convinced by the considered judgment of his senior economic team that it was critical in order to protect the American taxpayers and the American economy as a whole."

With the U.S. economy inextricably intertwined with the finances of other countries, the turmoil from Wall Street to Main Street will naturally be a topic of Bush's discussions in New York, Perino said.

Before leaving Washington, Bush said differences over details of the administration's bailout plan were understandable. But he warned lawmakers not to bog down.

Biden says mocking McCain was 'terrible'

AMERICA VOTES

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama's running mate says a campaign ad that mocked Republican presidential candidate John McCain as an out-of-touch, out-of-date computer illiterate was "terrible" and would not have been done had he known about it.

Obama, McCain's Democratic rival, launched the ad earlier this month, part of an aggressive push to slow McCain's rise in the polls after he chose Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin to be his running mate. It included unflattering footage of Sen. McCain at a hearing in the early '80s, wearing giant glasses and an out-of-style suit, interspersed with shots of a disco ball, a clunky phone, an outdated computer and a Rubik's Cube.

"He admits he still doesn't know how to use a computer, can't send an e-mail, still doesn't understand the economy, and favors $200 billion in new tax cuts for corporations, but almost nothing for the middle class," the ad says.

Asked about the negative tone of the campaign, and this ad in particular, during an interview broadcast Monday by the "CBS Evening News," Obama's running mate, Sen. Joe Biden, said he disapproved of it.

"I thought that was terrible, by the way," Biden said.

Asked why it was done, he said: "I didn't know we did it and if I had anything to do with it, we'd have never done it."

Late Monday, Obama campaign spokesman Bill Burton issued a statement from Biden. In it, Biden said he "was asked about an ad I'd never seen" and was "reacting merely to press reports."

Biden said that, as he said in the interview, there was nothing "intentionally personal" in the criticism of McCain's views.

AP

Democratic vice president candidate Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., second from left, poses with 2nd Lt. Deborah Sherrick, left, of Fresno Calif. and 1st Lt. Amy Slinker, of Anchorage, Alaska, Monday, Sept. 22, 2008, after speaking to the National Guard Association of the United States' 130th General Conference in Baltimore.

Congress hustling to pass rail reform after crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After a fatal commuter train collision, Congress is hurrying to pass new laws that would limit hours engineers work, mandate technology to stop trains on a collision course and enact the rail industry's first other major reforms in 14 years.

The train oversight and safety agency, the Federal Railroad Administration, has operated under an expired 1994 law, and until the Sept. 12 crash, it looked like Congress would end another legislative session without changes.

Twenty-five people were killed when the Metrolink commuter train collided with a freight train, the nation's deadliest train accident since 1993.

Now lawmakers are scrambling to come up with a final deal by the end of the week on sweeping reforms pushed for years by the National Transportation Safety Board. The House and Senate have passed versions of the bill, but hope to resolve differences before the election recess Friday, according to Senate aides.

"We regulate in this country by counting tombstones," said Barry M. Sweedler, the former director of the NTSB's office of safety recommendations. "If you don't have enough people dead, not much gets done. The pressure isn't there to do it."

In 1993, Amtrak's Sunset Limited jumped the rails on a weakened bridge and plunged into a bayou near Mobile, Ala., killing 47 people.

The following year, Congress passed the Federal Railroad Safety Authorization Act of 1994, but it expired four years later and the FRA has operated without new congressional guidance.

Critics say serious safety issues have gotten short shrift in that time.

Woman whose dogs mauled neighbor gets 15 to life

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A woman whose dogs viciously attacked and killed her neighbor in the hallway of their apartment building seven years ago was sentenced Monday to 15 years to life in prison.

Marjorie Knoller was convicted of second-degree murder in the 2001 mauling death of Dianne Whipple, but a judge later reduced the charge to involuntary manslaughter and sentenced her in 2002 to a four-year prison term.

But the California Supreme Court last year said the trial judge was wrong and sent the case back. Last month, Superior Court Judge Charlotte Woolard reinstated the murder conviction, for which Knoller was sentenced Monday.

The case is the California's first murder conviction connected to a dog mauling, prosecutors say.

AP

Marjorie Knoller listens to closing arguments in the San Francisco dog mauling trial on March 18, 2002, at the Los Angeles County Courthouse in Los Angeles.

The case turned into a tabloid sensation because of the viciousness of the attack—the dogs tore all of Whipple's clothing from her body and left her with more than 70 bites—and the seemingly cavalier attitudes of Knoller and her law partner and husband, Robert Noel, who blamed Whipple for the attack.

The couple also said they were keeping the canines on behalf of a white supremacist accused of running an attack dog ring from his state prison cell. The couple eventually adopted the prisoner, Paul "Cornfed" Schneider, as their son.

Knoller, who has served three years in prison, will have to serve 12 more years before she can apply for parole.

In denying Knoller's plea for probation, Woolard noted that Knoller didn't call 911 or otherwise try to help Whipple during the 10-minute attack.

The judge said Knoller knew the dogs were dangerous, ignored numerous warnings to train them and hasn't expressed remorse for the attack.

ACROSS THE NATION

Construction workers complain about nude skater

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Portland Police took a waterfront Lady Godiva down a notch this week. Barely. They were getting calls about a nude skater whizzing past tourists and rush-hour commuters. But you can do that in Oregon, where occasional nude bike rides draw police only for crowd control and shows featuring live sex acts are protected as free speech. The skater, Gennifer Moss, aka Earth Friend Gen, asked organizers for permission this summer to skate naked in the city of Ashland's Fourth of July parade. She didn't get it. Police told her to tone it down after construction workers complained. Moss donned a string bikini bottom for the nonce and skated on. Police say most callers are concerned about her safety.

Police: Pa. landlord spied on female tenants

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A suburban Philadelphia landlord placed hidden cameras throughout his apartments and secretly videotaped female tenants for years, investigators said Monday. Thomas Daley, 45, of Phoenixville, is accused of wiretapping, invasion of privacy and criminal use of a communications device, among other charges stemming from the police search that yielded cameras behind mirrors and in cabinets and ceiling fans, police said. Hidden cameras and audio equipment were found in the bedrooms, bathrooms and living rooms of at least three apartments he owned in Norristown, police said. Altogether, 16 apartments have been searched or are in the process of being searched. "He had such an elaborate system set up that when someone in the apartment would activate a light switch or a ceiling fan, he was able, via the Internet, to retrieve the video images or audio," Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Ferman said.

Protesters set up camp outside Florida mom's home

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Each night, a half dozen protesters plant lawn chairs across the street from the home of missing 3-year-old Caylee Anthony, demanding a confession from her mother and grandparents. "Baby killer," one woman's sign reads. "My mommy did it!" reads another. But all they get is silence: The child's family stays quiet night after night, their yard lined with yellow caution tape and "No Trespassing" signs, and a collage of the hazel-eyed child's photographs taped to the front door. Three months after Caylee disappeared under mysterious circumstances, the protesters have joined the crowd of reporters and gawkers outside the family's suburban Orlando home, hoping to get what police so far have not: a statement that the little girl is dead. They believe the girl's 22-year-old mother, Casey Anthony, killed her and that her grandparents, Cindy and George Anthony, are covering it up. The protesters taunt the family at all hours, some dressing up in costumes and even recording rock songs about the case. There has been a videotaped scuffle and even 911 calls, but the group is undeterred in its mission.

Asia

Pakistan official says 10 alleged militants killed

KHAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani security forces killed 10 more suspected insurgents as part of a major military offensive near the Afghan border that has spawned retaliatory attacks by the Pakistani Taliban.

More than 700 suspected militants have been killed since the operation in Bajur tribal region launched in early August, the army said.

The offensive has earned praise from U.S. officials at a time of tense relations between the two anti-terror allies and rising violence in the Muslim nation, including a massive weekend bombing at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad that killed 53 people.

The latest casualties came early Tuesday, when the 10 suspected militants died in an intense shootout with security forces on the outskirts of Bajur's main city of Khar, government official Iqbal Khattak said. He said some security forces were wounded, but he would not say how many.

The U.S. says the operation in Bajur - a rumored hiding place of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden - appears to have reduced violence across the border in Afghanistan. Washington has pushed Pakistan to crackdown on the tribal areas, which militants use as bases to prepare for attacks on American and NATO forces in Afghanistan.

Pakistan's chief army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas has said Bajur had turned into a mega-sanctuary for militants and that it simply had to be cleared out.

Still, a rash of U.S. cross-border operations in neighboring tribal regions, including suspected missile strikes and a ground assault, underscore Washington's concerns that Pakistan is either unwilling or incapable of rooting out extremists on its own.

Pakistan has officially protested the strikes, calling them violations of its sovereignty. But its civilian leaders have called for diplomatic measures to resolve the dispute.

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari was expected to bring up the issue in a meeting with President Bush on Tuesday on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani Taliban have taken credit for a string of suicide bombings in recent weeks, saying they were revenge for the Bajur offensive and ongoing military actions in the volatile northwest's Swat Valley.

However, the top Pakistani Taliban commander has denied a role in the hotel bombing, which also wounded nearly 270 people on Saturday. Experts and officials say that explosion bore the hallmarks of al-Qaida, but that the Taliban may still have assisted in its execution.

Late Monday, Dubai-based TV channel Al-Arabiya said it received a tape from a shadowy group calling itself "Fedayeen Al-Islam"—Arabic for "Islam commandos"—claiming responsibility for the Marriott bombing and calling on Pakistan to end cooperation with the United States.

Chinese dairy stock price plunges amid recall

BEIJING (AP)—The stock price of a company at the center of China's tainted milk product scandal plunged Tuesday as more countries expanded bans on Chinese milk products to include candies and other goods.

The tainting has sickened nearly 53,000 Chinese infants who drank contaminated baby formula and has already cost the head of the country's food safety watchdog his job. Four deaths have been blamed on the contaminated milk powder.

■ ■ ■

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Officials say the Philippines has banned all milk imports from China as a precaution against the spread of contaminated baby formula that has killed four and sickened more than 53,000 Chinese infants.

A Tuesday order by Bureau of Food and Drugs chief Leticia Barbara Gutierrez says the temporary ban on importation, distribution and sale of China-made milk products has been imposed "in the interest of protecting public health and welfare."

She says her office has no record of baby formula imports from China, but advised consumers not to buy infant milk that might have entered the country from China illegally.

The industrial chemical melamine has been found in infant formula and other milk products from 22 of China's dairy companies.

■ ■ ■

One of China's biggest milk producers, China Mengniu Dairy Co., saw its stock price plummet almost 60 percent in Hong Kong trading Tuesday after its products were found tainted with the industrial chemical melamine.

Mengniu, China's No. 1 dairy producer in total volume, said only a small portion of its products were contaminated and blamed the contamination on "the illegal acts of some irresponsible milk collection centers and raw milk dealers."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Aso new head of Japan ruling party, likely next PM

TOKYO (AP)—Taro Aso, who was elected Monday to head Japan's ruling party and stood on the brink of becoming prime minister, has a reputation for being just about everything his predecessor wasn't. He's charming, charismatic and brimming with confidence. One thing remains the same, however. When Aso is sworn in as Japan's prime minister this week—a virtual certainty because his party controls the lower house of parliament—he will inherit a government wracked by scandals, paralyzed by gridlock and divided over how to deal with economic instability. Aso won a landslide victory in an election within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to replace Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, who abruptly announced three weeks ago that he was quitting because he was unable to deal with a stalemate in parliament with the opposition.

US denies helicopter incursion into Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani troops and tribesmen opened fire on two U.S. helicopters that crossed into the country from neighboring Afghanistan, intelligence officials said Monday. The U.S. denied the report. The helicopters did not return fire and re-entered Afghan airspace without landing, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media. "There was no such incursion, there was no such event," said Col. Gary L. Keck, Defense Department spokesman. The reported incursion late Sunday will likely add to tensions between Islamabad and Washington. A spate of suspected U.S. missile strikes into Pakistan's border region and a raid by U.S. commandos said to have killed 15 people have angered and embarrassed Pakistani leaders while signaling Washington's impatience with Pakistani efforts to clear out militant havens.

US allowing first family visits to Afghan prison

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The U.S. military scheduled the first family visits at its Afghanistan detention center Tuesday, allowing the international Red Cross to transport the relatives of prisoners to the main American base at Bagram. Five families were being given hour-long meeting with prisoners inside the heavily fortified Bagram Air Base, some 30 miles north of Kabul, said the International Committee for the Red Cross, which helped broker the agreement with the U.S. "This is indeed a crucial day for many families who have not seen their relatives in a long period of time," said Greg Muller, a Red Cross delegate in Kabul. "To finally meet them face-to-face is something that cannot be replaced by any other means."

World

Iran's president returns to UN General Assembly

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Iran's president, whose appearance at the U.N. General Assembly last year sparked thousands of protesters in the streets and an American walkout during his speech, returns to the United Nations on Tuesday amid heightened concerns over his country's nuclear ambitions.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's speech comes after the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency warned Monday that he cannot determine whether Iran is hiding some nuclear activities and after the Iranian leader warned over the weekend that the military would strike back against anyone targeting his country's nuclear facilities.

"If anyone allows himself to commit even a tiny offense against Iran's legitimate interests, borders and sacred land, our armed forces will break his hand before he pulls the trigger," Ahmadinejad said during a military parade Sunday.

Iran insists its nuclear activities are geared only toward generating power. But Israel says the Islamic Republic could have enough nuclear material to make its first bomb within a year. The U.S. estimates Tehran is at least two years away from that stage.

Last year, thousands rallied at the United Nations to protest Ahmadinejad's speech. When Ahmadinejad was ushered to the podium of the General Assembly to speak, the U.S. delegation walked out, leaving only a low-ranking note-taker to listen to his speech.

Ahmadinejad's speech Tuesday will come just hours after President Bush makes his final address to the General Assembly. After seven years of criticizing the U.N. for its huge, costly bureaucracy and indecisiveness in the face of grave problems, Bush is expected to stress the need for multinational diplomacy in a 15-minute speech.

Bush also is to meet Tuesday with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari. Topping their talks will be the series of suspected U.S. missile attacks and an American-led cross-border ground assault in Pakistan's volatile northwest that have angered public opinion.

The vice president of Sudan and leaders from Georgia, Lebanon, Kenya, Somalia, France, Liberia and Argentina are also among those addressing the General Assembly on Tuesday.

On Monday, leaders gathered for a high-level meeting on Africa's development needs. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the world's rich nations to spend $72 billion a year to help Africa achieve U.N. goals to fight poverty, improve health and ensure universal primary education.

A new report from the secretary-general said not a single African country is likely to achieve all the U.N. Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015.

AP

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad waves to reporters before a meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Monday, Sept. 22, 2008 at United Nations headquarters.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-072-2006 (Amendment/Re-Announcement V)**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$50,000.00 - $ 65,000.00**
Opening Date: **August 20, 2008, 2008** Closing Date: **October 11, 2008**
Location: **PSS, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from a US accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Accounting or related field of study plus five (5) years work experience and must hold a valid licensure as a Certified Public Accountant; **OR** Master's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Accounting or related field of study plus five (5) years related work experience.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

Announcement No: **PSS-073-2006 (Amendment/Re-Announcement III)**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$50,00.00-$65,000.00**
Opening Date: **August 20, 2008** Closing Date: **October 11, 2008**
Location: **PSS – OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from a US accredited college or university with a Master's degree in Education Administration or related areas, plus at least five (5) years of progressively responsible teaching or education administration experience.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Poles abroad mull returning to thriving economy

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Marek Tomasikiewicz and his family left Poland a few years ago for higher wages and better schools in Britain, but times have changed.

Economies in western Europe are struggling, and some of the hundreds of thousands of Poles who sought better lives elsewhere are starting to trickle home, where rapid economic growth and falling unemployment have brightened many people's outlook.

Tomasikiewicz has returned, lured by an emotional attachment to his homeland and the sense that well-paid work can be had in Poland now. His family plans to join him after his 23-year-old daughter, Agnieszka, finishes her studies to be a lawyer.

Since 2004, when this formerly communist nation joined the European Union, its economy has thrived and spawned new jobs, higher wages, a stronger currency - and, no less significantly, new hope for the future.

While Polish migrants are not returning en masse, cases like Tomasikiewicz stand as a sign of the new optimism and could mark the start of a new trend if the Polish economy continues to roar ahead.

"In Poland, things have really changed a lot," said Tomasikiewicz, 48, who moved to Britain in 2001 to work as a bus driver and construction worker. "Now, jobs are just waiting for you if you want to work. I see a colossal difference."

He makes a living now on tourism, renting out one vacation house on the Baltic shore and another in the mountains that he bought largely with his British earnings. He also plans to seek work as a bus driver.

With the economic improvement, fewer Poles are leaving home. The Home Office in Britain, the leading destination of Polish migrants along with Ireland, said the number of applications by Poles seeking work permits from August 2007 to June 2008 fell 17 percent from a year earlier, down to 134,255 from 162,495.

Poland is also attracting its own immigrants, from places like Ukraine, Belarus and Vietnam.

The jobless rate, which stood at 19.7 percent in 2003, was down to 6.8 percent this July, according to Eurostat, the EU's statistical office.

WORLD BRIEFS

Gitmo judge enlists help from 9/11 mastermind

BASE, Cuba (AP)—Confessed Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed offered Monday to help persuade one of his co-defendants to leave his prison cell for a pretrial hearing at Guantanamo Bay. Mohammed volunteered to reach out to Ramzi Binalshibh after the military judge overseeing the case suggested that he might offer a separate trial for Binalshibh, who has refused to appear with his four co-defendants in America's most important war-crimes trial since the close of World War II. Judge Ralph Kohlmann, a Marine colonel, permitted Mohammed and the other co-defendants to send notes to Binalshibh. If the Yemeni still refuses to appear in court on Tuesday morning, Binalshibh will be dragged from his cell, Kohlmann said. "It is my hope that perhaps we can avoid the need for a forcible bringing of him here," the judge said.

Witnesses: Fighting in Somali capital kills 30

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Somalia's warring sides pounded the capital with mortar rounds and gunfire Monday, killing 30 people—including a family of seven—as Islamic insurgents who want to topple the government gain significant power. Monday's fighting pitted insurgents against government forces and their Ethiopian allies, who come under regular attack in Mogadishu, one of the most violent cities in the world. The violence left bodies in city streets. When the blasts calmed, young men ventured out to transport the gravely wounded to hospitals in rickety wheelbarrows. "There is blood everywhere, and human flesh on the walls," Abshir Mohamed Ali, a shop owner at Bakara market, where much of the fighting was centered, told The Associated Press. The fighting began after Islamic insurgents fired mortars at the capital's main airport and the presidential palace, said Ali Mohamed Siyad, who chairs Bakara market traders' association. Soon after, government forces and their Ethiopian allies retaliated with mortars and gunfire.

UK experts say Stonehenge was place of healing

LONDON (AP)—The first excavation of Stonehenge in more than 40 years has uncovered evidence that the stone circle drew ailing pilgrims from around Europe for what they believed to be its healing properties, archaeologists said Monday. Archaeologists Geoffrey Wainwright and Timothy Darvill said the content of graves scattered around the monument and the ancient chipping of its rocks to produce amulets indicated that Stonehenge was the primeval equivalent of Lourdes, the French shrine venerated for its supposed ability to cure the sick. An unusual number of skeletons recovered from the area showed signs of serious disease or injury. Analysis of their teeth showed that about half were from outside the Stonehenge area. "People were in a state of distress, if I can put it as politely as that, when they came to the Stonehenge monument," Darvill told journalists assembled at London's Society of Antiquaries.

Campus Life

Despite credit crisis, most students have found loans

By SUSAN KINZIE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—The national credit crisis has caused confusion and some last-minute scrambling for college students and their parents, but most of them have been able to borrow the money they need to pay for school.

Students, schools and analysts who monitor lending said it's good, if surprising, news, given the financial turmoil in the credit markets.

"We haven't had a single student turned down for a loan," said Melissa Gregory, college director of financial aid at Montgomery (Md.) College. She was surprised, especially because earlier this year some banks announced that they would no longer lend to students at community colleges.

More than 130 lenders have pulled out of the student loan market, according to Mark Kantrowitz, publisher of finaid.org. That included some dramatic departures late in the summer, just when tuition bills were going out.

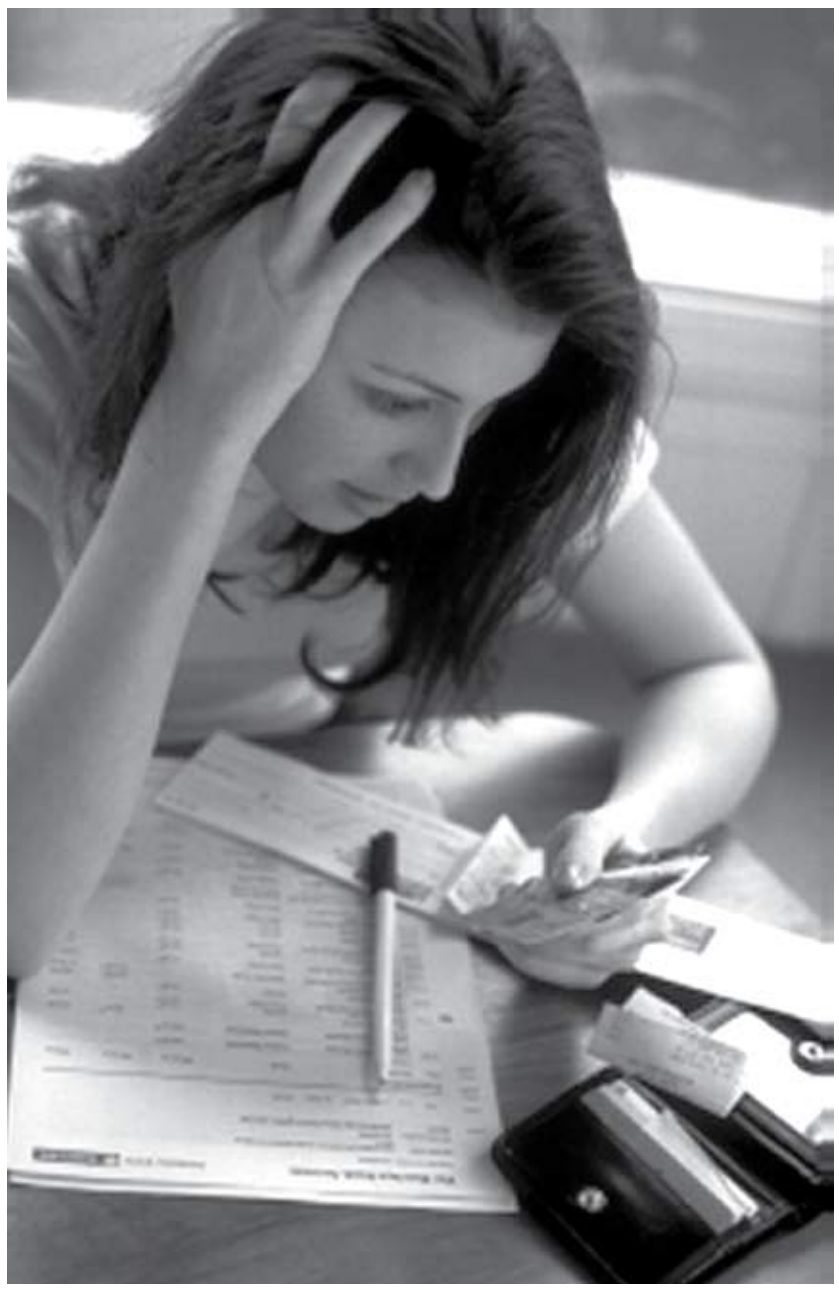
"What's especially challenging this year," said James Boyle, president of College Parents of America, "is that the (college) financial aid offices are themselves sort of reeling from various lenders dropping out ... it's difficult for the financial aid offices to keep pace, let alone for parents to understand it."

Federal aid has remained by far the biggest source of loans. But during the past decade, the private market rose dramatically. Now, however, many banks have adopted stricter rules, trying to lower their risk, so the hardest-hit are students who don't have credit, have poor credit, or don't have someone to co-sign a loan.

Some financial aid officers see a bit of a bright side to all of this: It could make families more apt to choose federal loans, which offer more protections than private loans, such as deferments, more-flexible payment plans and loan forgiveness options.

Congress and the Department of Education stepped in to help federal loans this year by cutting the rate on certain loans for some students with low incomes, by letting undergraduates borrow more money from a federal loan program, and allowing the department to buy loans from some lenders to ensure that federal loans are available.

Kantrowitz estimated that 98 percent or more of students nationwide won't have any issues, although many of the lenders have not gotten the money from the Department of Education, so there is a chance for problems in the next couple of weeks. Schools won't know for sure until this semester's bills are paid.



The national credit crisis has caused confusion and some last-minute scrambling for college students and their parents, but most of them have been able to borrow the money they need to pay for school.

Still, at the University of Virginia, Georgetown, Catholic, Johns Hopkins, Howard and the University of Maryland, school officials said they hadn't heard of students unable to get loans for the fall semester.

At American University, Brian Lee Sang, director of the financial aid office, said there were some reports of students having trouble, and at George Washington University, one or two dozen students in the law and medical schools had to find new loans quickly when NorthStar Education Finance suspended its loans. The lender then announced last week that it would fund some on a limited basis, and the financial aid office worked with those students to find other loans.

But there was a frantic nature to loan applications this season, adding to the uncertainty. One lender serving the University of Maryland had said it might not be able to make loans, only to come through with funding a week before school started.

It has been significantly worse for career colleges, where many of the students are working adults with low incomes and without parents or others to co-sign a loan, said Bob Cohen, senior vice president at the Career College Association.

The federal intervention has helped, he said. And some career schools began loaning money themselves.

For those who don't have credit or help from relatives, who are now more likely to get turned down, the options are more confusing and less appealing, including private loans that pile on costs.

"A lot of students are ending up going with loan providers that have extremely high interest rates because they don't mind taking on people that are a higher risk," said Carmen Berkley, president of the United States Student Association.

Internet lets freshmen meet before they meet

By JURA KONCIUS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Many incoming college freshmen about to move into their first dorm already know quite a bit about their new roommates. Although some schools still match students based on a short questionnaire about living habits (Do you smoke? Play loud music? Live like a slob?), the room assignment process is becoming increasingly sophisticated. It can involve detailed surveys of snacking practices and partying styles, online "courting" of prospective roomies, lots of time logged on Facebook and the ceaseless hovering of parents.

"The student population today is different than 10 years ago," says Bobbi Babitz, chief executive of Lifetopia, a company that provides higher-education-housing software to such schools as Harvard and Tulane. "They are active consumers and used to making their own choices."

Picky, picky, picky. Many students are concerned about who they will share a glorified closet with. You could end up with a lifelong friend (Al Gore and Tommy Lee Jones lived together at Harvard) or not. But many teens, after all, have never shared a bedroom.

"It's a big deal," says Rachel Walisko, an 18 year old from Vienna, Va., who is about to begin her first year at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Walisko says many of her college-bound friends are spending hours connecting with roommates on Facebook. "I'm glad they asked me a lot of questions on the online housing registration form. Especially the one about `What is my favorite kind of music?' " Walisko says. "I feel like you can tell a lot about a person by the kind of music they listen to."

Sam Ricci says it took him five minutes to answer the questions about neatness and sleeping habits that the housing office at the University of Colorado at Boulder asked him. "I was hoping the questionnaire would be longer and in-depth," says the 18 year old from Takoma Park, Md. He is concerned his roommate might not enjoy staying up late hanging out with friends like he does. "I think a roommate you can get along with is extremely important to having fun in college."

School strategies vary. "Some colleges feel it is important to make as good a match as possible. Other campuses feel college is a time to expand your horizons a little bit," says James Baumann, a spokesman for the Association of College and University Housing Officers. "Some campuses purposely don't match two people from the same high school together; others might put people like that together."

Five years ago, Georgetown University launched a roommate selection process called CHARMS (Campus Housing Roommate Matching System). Students are given the option of pairing themselves or being matched by university staff. After answering 20 living-preference questions, students can surf anonymous online profiles of other freshmen that match some of their criteria. Students exchange messages and decide whether this person is someone they can live with.

According to Jonalyn Ware Greene, executive director of student housing at Georgetown, 68 percent of this year's 1,580 freshmen have chosen to participate in CHARMS. Results from past years have been positive.

Transition to college harder on men than women

By KATHLEEN MEGAN
(C) 2008, THE HARTFORD COURANT

When Aman Kidwai arrived at the University of Connecticut, he was scared, nervous and anxious like most young men. And, like most young men, he didn't talk about it.

He had played football and run track in high school, and while he might have played sports at a Division 3 school, he wasn't going to play at UConn. He was used to the highly structured life of high school, with every moment spoken for, ever-vigilant parents and teachers and a team full of friends.

The university felt cold and impersonal and he had a hard time connecting with people, much less discussing his uncomfortable feelings.

"Those are tough feelings to emote," said Kidwai, now a senior, "tough feelings to tell anyone about." He found himself skipping classes just because he could.

While most kids—young men and young women—have a mix of anxiety and excitement when they head off for college, experts on men and masculinity say that young men handle those feelings differently from young women and therefore often experience different problems and sometimes greater difficulties in the transition.

James M. O'Neil, a University of Connecticut professor who has been studying gender issues and masculinity for the past 30 years, said the college transition issues are a reflection of the crisis in the development of boys and young men in America. O'Neil said that he now addresses these issues in his classes on gender and masculinity, but that he wants, eventually, to explore whether students would find it helpful to have a men's center or discussion programs in residence halls.

While girls are raised to feel relatively comfortable expressing emotions, to seek help by talking to friends, family or professionals, O'Neil said, young men learn early on that it isn't considered strong or masculine to express fear, anxiety or other vulnerable feelings. "If you haven't been taught to label your feelings, to express them and use them constructively, if you don't have that skill," O'Neil said, those feelings may be expressed in "negative ways." Troubled young men are more likely than women to drink, to act out aggressively, to fight or vandalize, O'Neil said, while troubled young women are more likely to talk out their issues with a friend or to seek help at a counseling center.

Professionals at other universities and colleges say they see the same patterns. Susan Birge, director of counseling and psychological services at Fairfield University, said young men "just don't have societal permission to speak up and ask for help," Birge said, and college is a place where asking for help can be crucial for success.

Jason Zelesky, wellness outreach coordinator at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., said that "the whole formation or the social construction of masculinity sends young men these lofty and unfair messages about what it means to be a young man," and that it's "a narrative of violence, confrontation, fierce independence, of a sort of emotional apathy or non-communication of emotion with the exception of anger."

Island Snapshots

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CUC PROTEST

Hundreds of long-suffering members of the community and ratepayers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. hold up candles, flashlights, cell phones, banners and placards calling for federal intervention in the CUC crisis during a peaceful CUC protest rally at the Garapan Fishing Base Wednesday last week.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Protest organizer Rep. Tina Sablan calls on the CNMI government to look at options other than renting power generators from off-island to address the power crisis.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Ralliers voice out their sentiments about the power outages.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A protester holds a lighted candle while businessman Ed Propst and Rep. Ed Salas talk to members of the community during the peaceful CUC protest rally.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Protesters shout: "We don't want to live in darkness!"

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Galvin Deleon Guerrero shares his personal experiences with power outages.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Protest organizer Ed Propst addresses the crowd.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Students also showed up to support the call for reliable and affordable power.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Protesters wear band aids on their foreheads and cheeks to dramatize what they call the "band aid" solution to the power crisis on Saipan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A new meaning for the CUC acronym?

Life & Style

MacArthur Foundation awards 25 'genius grants'

By CARYN ROUSSEAU
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—An evolutionary geneticist in Germany, a Nigerian-born writer, and an architectural historian who studies ancient bridges are among 25 recipients of this year's MacArthur Foundation "genius grants."

The $500,000 fellowships were announced Tuesday by the Chicago-based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Recipients may use the money however they wish.

Kirsten Bomblies, 34, a plant evolutionary geneticist in Tuebingen, Germany, said the money will allow her to expand her research.

"Maybe try to explore some slightly riskier options that maybe I otherwise wouldn't be able to get funding for," said Bomblies, originally from Colorado. "We rarely have that opportunity. I think I might write a book at the end of it all, a scientific book ... just to get some of the ideas that we have on paper."

Nigerian-born writer Chimamanda Adichie, who lives in Maryland, received an award for her work exploring ethnic conflicts inspired by her native country.

Dr. Regina Benjamin said the money will help rebuild her rural health clinic in Bayou La Batre, Alabama, which serves 4,400 patients. It was rebuilt by volunteers after being destroyed by Katrina Hurricane, only to burn down months later.

"The patients came by and they were crying," said Benjamin, 51, remembering one woman who handed her an envelope with a $7 donation to rebuild. The new clinic is about half built, she said.

"If she can find $7, I can figure out the rest," Benjamin said. "The patients I treat have their own disasters. Hopefully this grant will help them in some way. It will be as much theirs as it is mine."

John Ochsendorf, an associate professor of architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, said he at first didn't believe the news that he'd received a grant.

"I had to sit down. I had tears running down my face. I had a hard time breathing," Ochsendorf said. "It changes everything. This is validation."

Ochsendorf, 34, uses engineering and architecture to explain the ancient world. His research team studies Incan suspension bridges that cross gorges of the Andes Mountains.

AP

Jay Rubenstein and his girlfriend, Meredith McGroarty pose for a portrait at his home Thursday, Aug. 28, 2008 in Knoxville, Tenn. Rubenstein, a professor at the University of Tennessee, won a MacArthur genius award and his life has changed radically. One big change is he has now fallen in love.

ON THE NET

MacArthur Foundation: http://www.macfound.org/

The MacArthur Foundation names the fellows, who are recommended to the foundation's board by a 12-member selection committee.

Jonathan Fanton, president of the MacArthur Foundation, said he makes several calls a year to recipients—including at least four this year—and winners are usually shocked.

"Generally, there's a pause and expressions of disbelief," he said. "I've had people drop the phone or say they need a minute because they feel weak."

Seven previous MacArthur grant recipients went on to receive Nobel prizes, Fanton said.

"Giving support to exceptionally talented people allows them to develop their talents, and society is better for the work they do," Fanton said.

Other winners of this year's fellowships include an inventor of musical instruments, an urban farmer, a saxophonist, a stage lighting designer, an astronomer who studies the geometry of the universe, and a critical-care physician who studies how to avoid human error in clinical practices.

Daniel Socolow, who directs the MacArthur Fellows program, said the foundation looks more at recipients' future promise than their past performance.

"It's not a particular thing they've done, it's a sense of the person," Socolow said. "There's something unusual about this person. These people have a distinctively creative approach to the field they're working in."

One of this year's recipients is Leila Josefowicz, 30, a solo violinist based in New York who travels the world performing with orchestras and conductors. The native Canadian made her Carnegie Hall debut at age 16 and said she finds excitement in playing pieces from modern composers.

"If I'm not worried about playing the circuit just for financial reasons, this can give me a buffer," Josefowicz said. "I'll spend more time studying and listening out there and choosing the composer I want to work with. I'm so grateful to work with composers to bring more concertos to the violin repertoire."

Rachel Wilson, a 34-year-old neurobiologist at Harvard Medical School, said her grant will help pay for experiments she might not otherwise have been able to afford. Wilson studies electrical activity in the brain, and her findings may affect treatments for Parkinson's disease and deafness.

"As scientists we're kind of trained to try to keep ideas in pace with funding," she said. "It's difficult to think about experiments that aren't in your price range, so to speak, and maybe that crushes the creative process."

MACARTHUR FOUNDATION FELLOWS

The following 25 fellows each will receive $500,000 over the next five years from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation:

- Chimamanda Adichie, 31, fiction writer, Columbia, Marylnand. Using events inspired by her native Nigeria, Adichie explores ethnic conflict in novels and stories.
- Will Allen, 59, urban farmer, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Allen provides healthy food to underserved and urban populations using low-cost farming techniques.
- Regina Benjamin, 51, rural family physician, Bayou La Batre, Alabama. With her Bayou La Batre Rural Health Clinic, Benjamin delivers medical care to rural and underserved areas of Alabama.
- Kirsten Bomblies, 34, plant evolutionary geneticist, Tuebingen, Germany. Bomblies researches how new species originate.
- Tara Donovan, 38, sculptor, Brooklyn, New York. As an artist, Donovan transforms ordinary materials into sculptures that mirror geological and biological forms.
- Wafaa El-Sadr, 58, infectious disease physician, New York, New York. El-Sadr works to find treatments for pandemics like HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.
- Andrea Ghez, 43, astrophysicist, Los Angeles, California. Among Ghez's accomplishments are identifying thousands of new star systems and researching black holes.
- Stephen Houston, 49, anthropologist and epigrapher, Providence, Rhode Island. Houston's specialty is researching Mesoamerican people by interpreting their hieroglyphics and art.
- Mary Jackson, 63, fiber artist, Charleston, South Carolina. Jackson has preserved the craft of sweetgrass basketry.
- Leila Josefowicz, 30, violinist, New York, New York. A solo musical performer, Josefowicz specifically looks to work with modern composers to broaden the violin's repertoire.
- Alexei Kitaev, 45, physicist and computer scientist, Pasadena, California. Kitaev studies quantum physics and quantum computing.
- Walter Kitundu, 35, instrument maker and composer, San Francisco, California. Kitundu looks to both traditional and experimental music to create new instruments and produce electro-acoustic works.
- Susan Mango, 47, developmental biologist, Salt Lake City, Utah. By using genetics, genomics, ecology and embryology, Mango researches how organs are formed.
- Diane Meier, 56, geriatrician, New York, New York. Meier develops more humane and effective treatments for the seriously ill.
- David Montgomery, 46, geomorphologist, Seattle, Washington. Montgomery studies ecological consequences of Earth surface processes.
- John Ochsendorf, 34, structural engineer and architectural preservationist, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Restoring structures from the distant past and identifying ancient building technologies allow Ochsendorf to develop more efficient contemporary construction methods.
- Peter Pronovost, 43, critical care physician, Baltimore, Maryland. Pronovost devises new clinical practices for hospitals that improve patient safety and avoid human error.
- Adam Riess, 38, astronomer, Baltimore, Maryland. Riess designs experiments and creates devices that would explain the geometry of the universe.
- Alex Ross, 40, music critic, New York, New York. As a critic, Ross offers new ways of thinking about music.
- Nancy Siraisi, 76, medical historian, Brooklyn, New York. Siraisi studies the impact of medical theory and practice on Renaissance society, culture and religion.
- Marin Soljacic, 34, optical physicist, Cambridge, Massachusetts. In an effort to create electrical devices that operate without batteries or wall connections, Soljacic studies how power can be transmitted wirelessly.
- Sally Temple, 49, neuroscientist, Albany, New York. Temple researches more effective treatments for central nervous system damage.
- Jennifer Tipton, 71, stage lighting designer, New York, New York. Tipton uses lighting to evoke mood and accompany dance, drama and opera.
- Rachel Wilson, 34, experimental neurobiologist, Boston, Massachusetts. Using electrophysiology, neuropharmacology, molecular genetics and anatomy, Wilson studies brain neurons.
- Miguel Zenon, 31, saxophonist, New York, New York. Zenon creates new sounds using his native music of Puerto Rico and a variety of jazz forms as inspiration.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of

Juan Celis Cabrera

November 25, 1954-September 18, 2008

In his new life, he now joins his:
Parents: †Leonardo Camacho Cabrera, †Ignacia Celis Cabrera.
Brother: †Jose C. Cabrera
Sister: †Ana C. Cabrera
Brother-in-law: †Glenn D. Butterist

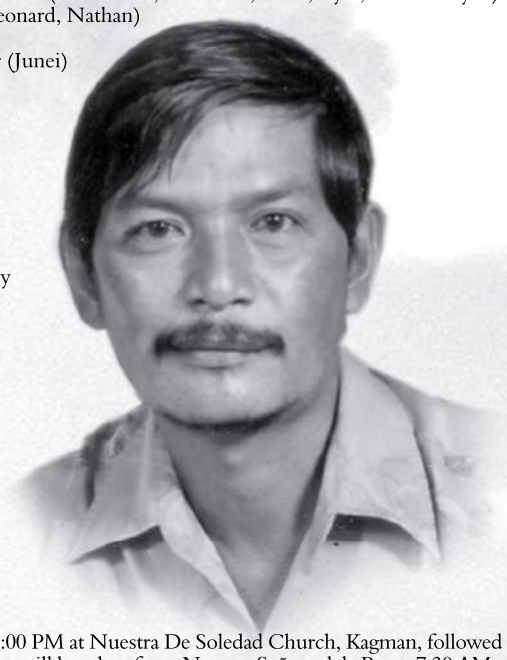
His memories will forever live in the hearts of his family, children, and grand children:
Josephine Camacho
Rodney C. Cabrera/Naomi M. Nishimura & Children (Dayna Jeanne & Deidre Lauren)
Rowena C. Cabrera/Robert Dela Cruz & Children (Emmanuel, Chrismae, Alvin, Zyra, Kiana & Ryan)
Lora Jean C. Cabrera & Children (Lynnae, Leonard, Nathan)
Juan C. Cabrera, Jr./Jadine S. Ada
Ignatia C. Cabrera/ Frank Hocog & Daughter (Junei)

Sisters, Brothers & In-laws:
Eugenia C./ Calistro S. Cepeda & Family
Margarita C./ Pedro W. Torres & Family
Victorina C./ Butteris & Family
Remedio C./ Vicente P. Diaz & Family
Diana C./ Francisco W. Torres
Dolores C./ Juan S. Camacho & Family
Bernadita C./ Mark I. Palacios & Family
Pedro C. Cabrera/Emerina Laguisma & Family
Jesus Teregeyo (Namba)

Mother In-Law: Rita R. Camacho
Juan R./Diana Camacho & Family
James R./Melanie Camacho & Family
Andy R./Melissa Camacho & Children
Zina R./David Nekaifes & Children
Anthony R./Jennifer Camacho & Children

Father In-Law: Angel Dela Cruz
Carmen Atalig

Joseph C./Melinda Atalig & Family
Cynthia C./Francisco Tudela & Family
Richard C./Jessa Atalig & Children
Angie C. Atalig & Family



Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at 6:00 PM at Nuestra De Soledad Church, Kagman, followed by Holy Rosary. On Friday, September 26, his remains will be taken from Nuestra Señora dela Paz at 7:30 AM to Nuestra Señora De Soledad Kagman. Responso Service will be at 8:30 AM followed by the Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 AM followed by interment Service at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

The Family

Woman revises lawsuit over Heath Ledger tape

AP

This Nov. 13, 2007 file photo shows actor Heath Ledger attending a special Cinema Society and Hogan hosted screening of "I'm Not There" at the Chelsea West Cinemas, in New York.

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A magazine freelancer suing two photographers and a paparazzi agency over a video that purportedly shows Heath Ledger doing drugs has amended her lawsuit to downplay her role as a reporter. The revisions come less than a month after a Los Angeles Superior Court judge frequently cited her profession in dismissing most of the woman's claims.

The lawsuit focuses on a tape that was allegedly made hours after the 2006 Screen Actors Guild Awards, which Ledger had attended as a nominee in a best actor category for his role in "Brokeback Mountain."

The revised suit is seeking unspecified damages, destruction of the video and the profits of the tape's sale. The new complaint alleges fraud, intentional infliction of emotional distress, negligence and six other claims; the original lawsuit featured 12 claims, 11 of which were dismissed.

Judge John S. Wiley Jr. cited the woman's assignment in his reasoning for invalidating several of the initial claims. He said the woman, identified only as "Jane Doe," rented a hotel room at the Chateau Marmont as part of her job. She was on assignment for People magazine.

The amended lawsuit filed Thursday, however, states that the woman's assignment was only to observe the "Brokeback Mountain" and "Capote" afterparties at the hotel that night. The suit claims she was not authorized to conduct one-on-one interviews with any celebrities.

According to the amended suit, Ledger agreed to go back to the woman's hotel room after he was befriended at the after-party by two men who worked for Splash News & Picture Agency. The freelancer had brought one of the men to the party as her date but did not invite the other Splash employee, the lawsuit states.

The woman was "excited and almost could not believe that she was going to 'hang out' with the person who was nominated for a SAG award," the lawsuit states.

The woman did not identify herself as a reporter to Ledger, nor did the Splash News paparazzi, according to the lawsuit.

Ronald Makarem, an attorney representing the photographers and Splash News, said Friday he had not seen the revised lawsuit and declined to comment.

The existence of the tape was not revealed until after Ledger's death from an accidental prescription drug overdose earlier this year. "Entertainment Tonight" and its sister show "The Insider" scrapped plans to air the footage, but it later surfaced online.

The lawsuit states it may have generated more than $1 million in revenues.

Ledger—who has been celebrated this year for his role as the villainous Joker in "The Dark Knight"—was already an established actor when the tape was made.

The reporter's likeness is blurred on the video.

Wiley tentatively dismissed several of the lawsuit's claims on Sept. 3, saying that the woman's brief appearance on the video did not make it valuable.

The judge also sided with defense attorneys, who argued that the woman could not make many of her claims on behalf of Ledger. "The tape's valuable because of Heath Ledger, not because of Jane Doe," Wiley said.

Part of paparazzo's suit against Reeves tossed

AP

Actor Keanu Reeves at the Comic-Con 2008 convention in this Thursday, July 24, 2008 photo in San Diego.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Keanu Reeves may have pulled off some daredevil stunts on-screen with a speeding bus, but a judge ruled Monday that his driving didn't warrant assault and battery claims by a photographer.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elizabeth A. Grimes ruled that paparazzo Alison Silva cannot seek punitive damages against Reeves, whose films include "Speed" and "The Matrix."

Silva claimed he was struck by Reeves' Porsche while photographing the actor in March 2007, causing serious injuries. Reeves' attorneys argued in court documents that Silva placed his hand on the actor's car and tripped over his own feet.

Grimes ruled Monday that Reeves didn't act maliciously as he moved his car forward to leave a parking space in a residential area about 30 miles south of downtown Los Angeles.

"They offered no evidence that the car Mr. Reeves was driving touched Mr. Silva," said Reeves' attorney, Mark Williams. "We're confident that should this case go to a jury, they'll find in favor of Mr. Reeves."

Silva can still pursue a negligence claim, which Reeves did not contest. Silva's attorney, Joseph Farzam, said the ruling, while a setback, would not deter the case from going to trial in late October.

"Mr. Silva is still entitled to fully recover his damages for the injuries he sustained," Farzam said.

"It's much easier to prove that someone was being careless," Farzam said, "than to prove that Mr. Reeves intended to harm Mr. Silva."

Farzam said the fall to the pavement fractured Silva's wrist and that he has already undergone one unsuccessful surgery. Another surgery is scheduled, but Farzam said Silva could remain partially disabled even if it is successful.

In a signed declaration, Reeves said he stopped the car after Silva fell and brought the photographer water. He recounted Silva as saying, "I am a paparazzo. He is a movie star. It was an accident!" according to court documents.

AP

Heather Mills leaves central London's Royal Courts of Justice, following the announcement of the judgment of her divorce with Paul McCartney, in this Monday March 17, 2008 file photo.

Paul McCartney's ex donating $1M in vegan food to Bronx

NEW YORK (AP)—Paul McCartney's ex-wife is donating $1 million worth of soy hamburgers, soy hot dogs and soy chicken cutlets to one of the poorest neighborhoods in the Bronx.

Heather Mills is set to announce the donation just before the Hunts Point Back to School Fair kicks off Saturday afternoon. The vegan animal rights campaigner is an honorary chairwoman of the nonprofit that organizes the event.

She tells the New York Post that she wants to make sure children in the neighborhood "have as many nutritional advantages as anyone else."

Children in Hunts Point have some of the highest obesity and asthma rates in the city.

Mills and McCartney were granted a divorce earlier this year.

New film documents creation of Beatles' 'Love'

NEW YORK (AP)—The director of a new documentary that chronicles the creation of the Beatles and Cirque du Soilel's "Love" show calls his film an "emotional journey" that manages to reveal something new about music's most documented band.

"All Together Now," which will be released on DVD Oct. 21, features the surviving Beatles, Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, as well as the widows of John Lennon and George Harrison, Yoko Ono and Olivia Harrison, as they worked together to oversee the development of "Love."

"We got to talk to all these people not just about creating the show but about the Beatles," director Adrian Wills said in a recent interview. "Because they were in an emotional frame of an experience, they were really candid with us."

"Love," a Las Vegas theatrical spectacle that made its debut two years ago, features the reworked music of the Fab Four for the psychedelic show. The idea for "Love" came about through a friendship between Harrison and Cirque du Soilel founder Guy Laliberte, but Harrison died before their plans could be realized.

McCartney, Starr and the widows then banded together to realize Harrison's vision.

That helped make the creative process more poignant, said Wills.

"The film was kind of like looking at the Beatles as a family, and there were all these kind of family members who (while) they might have been estranged from each other at times, and had gone through, like any other family, hard times and good times together, but now they were coming back together because one of their loved ones had fallen," he said.

The films also captures McCartney and Starr as they reminisce with George Martin, the legendary Beatles producer who helped reimagine the Beatles' music for the show with son Giles.

"You not only get a real glimpse into the creative process of how this show was made, but you get a real glimpse into who these people are," said Wills.

Though the DVD is being sold exclusively at Best Buy and at the "Love" show, the film will be shown at select theaters nationwide Oct. 20.

Actress Mia Farrow visits Haiti storm victims

GONAIVES, Haiti (AP)—Actress Mia Farrow is in Haiti to draw attention to thousands of children left homeless and hungry after four storms struck the impoverished country in a month.

Farrow visited a mud-filled cathedral on Saturday in Gonaives, where hundreds of storm victims have been living since early September.

The storms killed at least 425 people, destroyed thousands of homes and razed 60 percent of the island's agriculture.

Farrow, a UNICEF goodwill ambassador, will also visit sites in Port-au-Prince and the hard-hit town of Cabaret during a five-day tour.

The United Nations has distributed food and water to some 240,000 people, but raised only 2 percent of its US$108 million aid goal.

Blaine's latest stunt in NYC—hanging upside-down

AP

Both hanging upside down above Central Park's Wollman Rink in New York, Kelly Ripa, right, interviews magician David Blaine for "Live with Regis and Kelly" as Blaine begins his latest endurance challenge "David Blaine: Dive of Death" Monday morning Sept. 22, 2008.

NEW YORK (AP)—What's David Blaine up to? Oh, just hanging around. The magician-daredevil proclaimed, "I'm doin' all right," after starting his latest endurance challenge Monday—60 hours hanging upside-down, without a net, above Wollman Rink in Manhattan's Central Park.

Blaine—sounding nasal from sinus pressure—kept smiling while describing the "enormous push of blood" that made it feel like his head was "about to explode."

As a child, he was intrigued when Harry Houdini dangled from a crane by his ankles while escaping a straitjacket.

Said Blaine: "The legs go pin and needle very fast." Stretches—kind of an upside-down sit-up—seem to help.

Blaine, 35, is scheduled to exit from his perch at the climax of a live, two-hour ABC special, "David Blaine: Dive of Death," on Wednesday.

Maestro Maazel to start festival on Va. property

CASTLETON, Va. (AP)—World-renowned conductor Lorin Maazel and his wife plan to start an annual music festival on their 550-acre property in Rappahannock County, his communications firm announced Monday.

The Castleton Festival is scheduled for July 4-19, 2009, the week after Maazel's final concerts as the New York Philharmonic's music director, a position he has held for seven seasons.

The festival in northern Virginia will focus on four fully staged Benjamin Britten chamber operas: a new production of "The Turn of the Screw" and revivals of "Albert Herring," "The Rape of Lucretia" and "The Beggar's Opera."

Additional concerts, workshops and other activities are also planned.

A new multipurpose theater is being built for the festival, which is designed to train young professional artists and advanced students, who will live and work together for a month. While the main focus will be on performance activities, participants also will receive coaching, workshops, private lessons and master classes.

Caveman gets into Madison Avenue Ads Walk of Fame

NEW YORK (AP)—Getting into the Madison Avenue Advertising Walk of Fame is so easy, even a caveman can do it.

The Geico Caveman and the Serta Sheep advertising icons have been elected to the Walk of Fame in midtown Manhattan after online voting by the American public.

The U.S. Postal Service slogan "We Deliver For You" and the UPS tagline "What can Brown do for you?" also were inducted Monday, the first day of Advertising Week.

The Madison Avenue Advertising Walk of Fame was created by Advertising Week, a weeklong gathering of marketing professionals. Organizers have filled the Walk of Fame with bronze plaques and lamppost banners honoring such past inductees as Tony the Tiger, the Pillsbury Doughboy, the Geico Gecko and Colonel Sanders.

Robert Wagner reveals love affair with Stanwyck

AP

In this Saturday, May 4,1957 file photo, actor Robert Wagner is photographed in Tokyo while filming "Stopover Tokyo." Wagner's marriage to Natalie Wood was known to all. His love affair with Barbara Stanwyck was a secret- until now.

NEW YORK (AP)—Robert Wagner's marriage to Natalie Wood was known to all. His love affair with Barbara Stanwyck was a secret—until now. In his new memoir "Pieces of My Heart," Wagner writes of his four-year romance with the star of such classics as "Stella Dallas" and "Double Indemnity."

They met on the set of "Titanic," released in 1953, when he was 22 and she 45 and divorced from actor Robert Taylor.

The press knew nothing about their relationship and neither did most of Hollywood, except for such friends as Nancy Sinatra, the first wife of Frank Sinatra; and Spencer Tracy, whose bond with Katharine Hepburn was the ultimate show business secret.

"I would say she gave me self-esteem," writes the actor whose successful TV series included "It Takes a Thief" and "Hart to Hart," but the relationship didn't hold. They were both too busy working and the age difference was too great. Stanwyck eventually broke it off.

"I would always have been Mr. Stanwyck," Wagner, now 78, writes, "and we both knew it."

One woman's reject turns out to be another woman's prize

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My friend dated someone I'll call "Joel" a few times. She said he was nice, but she couldn't get past the fact that he's 27 and still lives at home with his mom. He is also rather shy.

I ran into Joel a couple of months ago. We started chatting and I ended up asking him out. Abby, he's a great guy. He's good-looking, has a steady job, drives a new truck and has money in the bank. He calls when he says he will and never "forgets" his wallet at home. He always insists on paying for dates, and he's a good cook. And to top it off—his mom is amazing!

I have never been happier, but now my so-called friend is angry with me. Now she is telling people that I "took" Joel away from her. (She had already told him she wasn't interested in him when I asked him out.) I'm losing a friend, but there is no way I'm giving him up. Maybe this will serve as a warning to other women. Don't count a man out because one or two things bother you. Look carefully at the whole picture before you judge someone.

HAPPY IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR HAPPY: Amen! Many a jewel has gone undiscovered until it was spotted by someone who recognized the "real thing" when she—or he—saw it. In this case, it was you. Enjoy.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law is a nice person and we usually get along fine, but there are things that my husband and I feel we should have in our possession that she won't hand over. I'm talking about pictures of him when he was growing up, and a few of his favorite toys to pass on—but mostly, his birth certificate.

I'm trying my best to stay on her good side because her relationship with my husband is not very good. How can I get her to hand over the things we would like to have for our family without making it a big issue? You must know that she is super-sensitive, so this is a delicate thing. Please help.

WANTING FOR OUR FAMILY

DEAR WANTING: Not knowing your mother-in-law, it's hard to know whether her unwillingness to share the items is because of her difficult relationship with your husband, because she is sentimental or, perhaps, because she needs to feel she's "in control." You might have better luck if you ask her if you can have copies made of the childhood photographs. That way, her family albums won't be depleted, and you can start some of your own.

As for the birth certificate, contact the department of records in the county in which your husband was born and request a copy. It's done all the time, and I'm sure they'll be pleased to oblige.

Your husband's toys are another matter. While they probably do belong with him, there may be a reason why she can't let them go. Continue to tread carefully.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What do you think about the social acceptability of brushing one's teeth in a public restroom? I'm sure it makes no difference what type of place the restroom is in, but I'm thinking of an informal restaurant—sone where you order food at the counter and carry it on a tray.

I'm concerned about oral health, and I'd like to brush after eating out, but I don't want to offend anyone.

WONDERING IN ST. PAUL

DEAR WONDERING: Wonder no more. Brushing your teeth in a public restroom is acceptable as long as you make certain that the sink you were using is rinsed perfectly clean afterward.

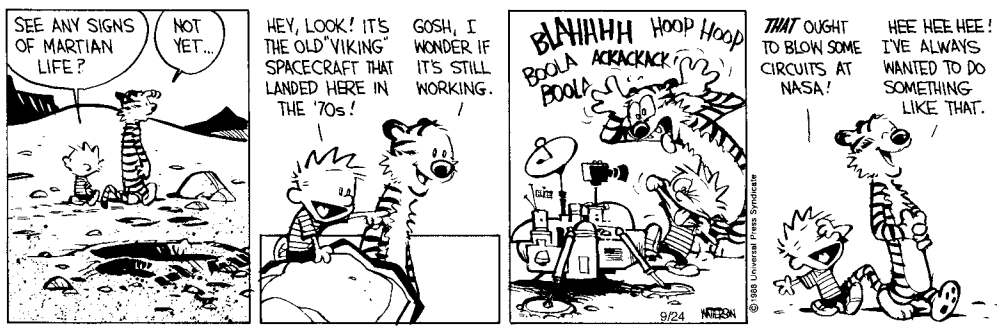
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

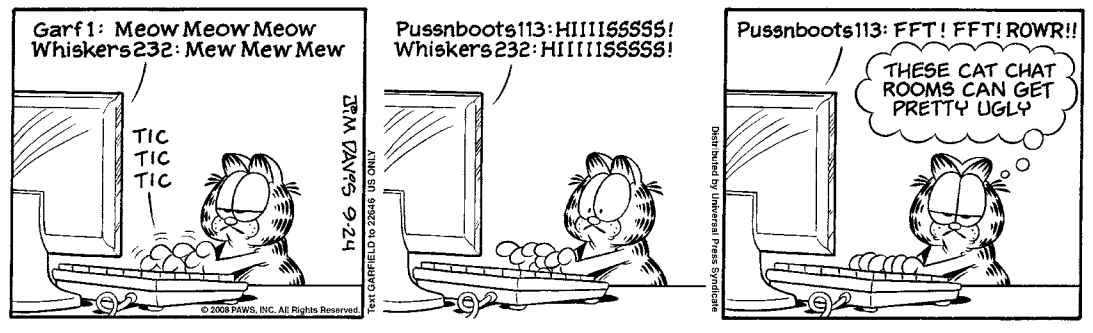
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SEE ANY SIGNS OF MARTIAN LIFE?
NOT YET...
HEY, LOOK! IT'S THE OLD "VIKING" SPACECRAFT THAT LANDED HERE IN THE '70s!
GOSH, I WONDER IF IT'S STILL WORKING.
BLAHHHH
HOOP HOOP
BOOLA ACKACKACK BOOLA
9/24
THAT OUGHT TO BLOW SOME CIRCUITS AT NASA!
HEE HEE HEE! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate

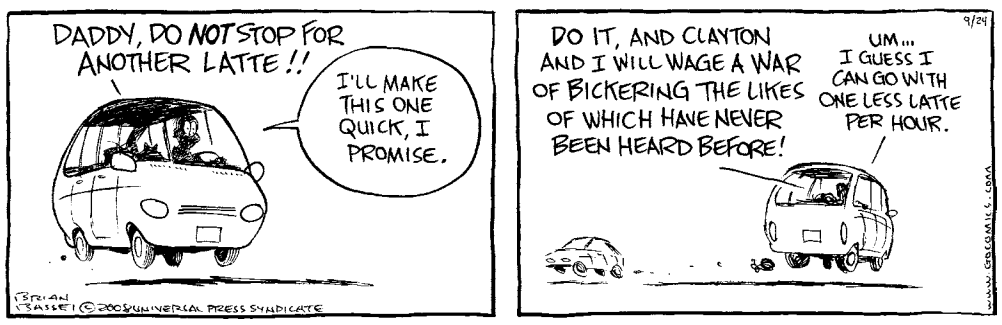
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



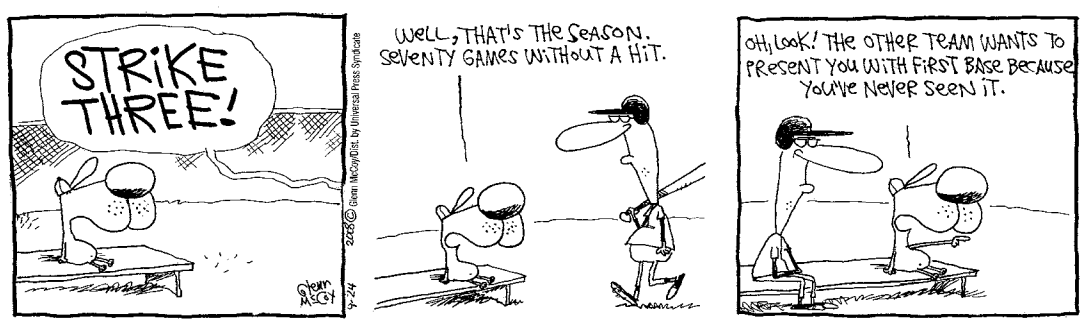
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DADDY, DO NOT STOP FOR ANOTHER LATTE!!
I'LL MAKE THIS ONE QUICK, I PROMISE.
BRYAN BASSET © 2008 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE
DO IT, AND CLAYTON AND I WILL WAGE A WAR OF BICKERING THE LIKES OF WHICH HAVE NEVER BEEN HEARD BEFORE!
UM... I GUESS I CAN GO WITH ONE LESS LATTE PER HOUR.
9/24
WWW.GOCOMICS.COM

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


STRIKE THREE!
Glenn McCoy
9-24
2008 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
WELL, THAT'S THE SEASON. SEVENTY GAMES WITHOUT A HIT.
OH, LOOK! THE OTHER TEAM WANTS TO PRESENT YOU WITH FIRST BASE BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Young bloke
4 Lavatory sign
7 Go sightseeing
8 Fills the cargo hold
10 Cognizant
11 One
13 Joseph, Kevin and Nicholas
16 Donkey
17 Prognosticators
18 Dead heat
19 One of the 4-H Club's H's
20 Citi Field forerunner
21 Disdain
23 Bowlers' milieu
25 Son of Odin
26 Poultry
27 Mess up
28 Where to find Augusta
30 Greek cross
33 Dianne, Peggy, Kathy and Janet
36 Affluence
37 Speechify
38 "The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft —"
39 Church service
40 Method (Abbr.)
41 CBS logo

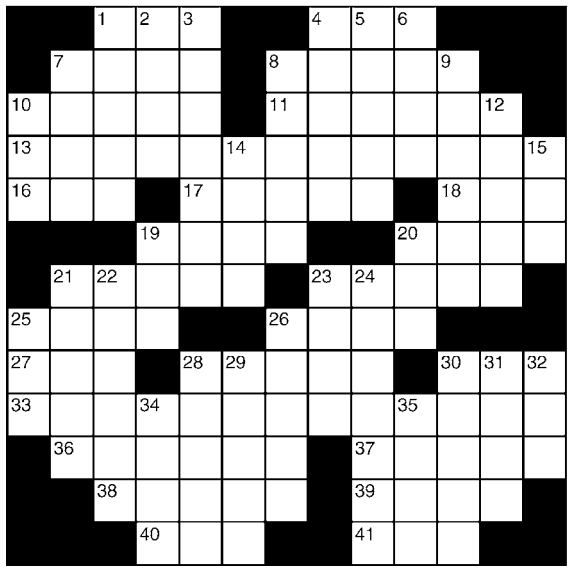
DOWN

1 Bank transactions
2 Emanation
3 Bureau
4 Estate house
5 Tends texts
6 Benelux nation (Abbr.)
7 Pairs
8 Enticed
9 Boil slowly
10 "Mirrors" director Alexandre
12 Desiccates
14 Noggin
15 Red or Black
19 Perp. to vert.
20 Mr. Bill's home, briefly
21 Termagant
22 Part of 41-Across
23 Actress Anderson
24 "Radical, dude!"
25 Aviv lead-in
26 Arousing suspicion
28 Pitcher for the Yankees?
29 Initial stakes
30 Rib
31 Crafts' mates
32 Work with
34 Kvetches
35 Salver

Solution time: 21 mins.

J	E	T	E	■	B	A	G	■	P	A	P	A
A	T	O	P	■	E	R	E	■	I	D	O	L
Z	U	N	I	■	I	C	E	S	K	A	T	E
Z	I	G	Z	A	G	S	■	P	A	R	S	E
■	■	■	O	D	E	■	E	E	K	■	■	■
L	A	P	A	Z	■	N	I	C	E	D	A	Y
I	M	A	■	■	F	A	N	■	■	O	V	A
V	I	C	E	R	O	Y	■	S	L	E	E	P
■	■	■	L	I	P	■	H	U	E	■	■	■
O	O	H	E	D	■	W	A	N	N	A	B	E
T	W	I	C	E	S	H	Y	■	D	U	L	L
T	E	N	T	■	E	Y	E	■	E	R	O	S
O	D	D	S	■	A	S	S	■	R	A	G	E

Yesterday's answer 9-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kyle Sullivan, 20; Spencer Treat Clark, 21; Erin Chambers, 29; Nia Vardalos, 46

Happy Birthday: Don't let love or personal problems interfere with what you have to accomplish this year. Rise up and take responsibility for your own actions. You can raise your status, reputation and position simply by doing more. There are more people on your side than you realize, so ask for assistance and you will get it. Your numbers are 2, 14, 23, 25, 33, 37, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your competitive attitude will lead to success. The more exhilarating the event, the harder you will be to beat. A challenge will help you realize your calling. Memories of activities you used to enjoy will lead to a new venture. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't rule out learning something new. It may help you get ahead professionally or financially. Don't let emotional uncertainty cause added stress and don't make a decision if someone is pressuring you. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Network, talk to colleagues and generally take charge of your future. Explain your goals and intentions and you will get valuable insight and aid in reaching your target. Discussing your plans with people who can help will motivate you to do more. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Expect the unexpected and you will be able to manipulate the situation in your favor. A partnership, although difficult, may aid you in holding on to what you have. Don't fall for products that promise the impossible. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Wasting time waiting for someone or something to happen will set you back. You have to be the one to take control if you want to get ahead. Make home improvements that ensure everyone has his or her own space. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A friendship will be on shaky ground if you are being asked to do too much and your attitude becomes uncertain or distant. Someone from your past may be what's causing your confusion. Consider everyone's motives, including your own. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Nice, not nasty, will get you what you want. With a little Libra charm you will be well on your way to success. When it comes to a partnership, you could get caught in the middle of someone else's agenda, leading to a parting of the ways. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Choose your battles wisely. If you can't win, don't even step into the ring. There is a lesson to be learned by being the observer for a change. Give attention to what you can enforce and move forward. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't be too eager to take advantage of someone who's being generous. What this person will want in return may be more than you're willing to offer. Put money aside in case you need to bail yourself out of a mess. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Someone may lead you astray because he or she wants something from you. Promises made are likely to be broken. Stick to conservative deals and people you can count on to give you good advice. Stay in control of all money matters. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Talk about your plans, intentions and commitments. It's time to be honest with the people around you regarding how they fit in to your intended direction. Get started on something you have longed to do. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Get along with your colleagues, peers and friends, no matter how difficult some of them may be. Don't play with fire when it comes to love. Being enticed by someone who isn't really available will lead to distractions. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	4	6					
			3	8	4	2	5	
		5				4		
		9					8	
		1				7	2	4
	3	7	4		2	6		9
7	1		8		6			5
4			1			8	9	
	9	8						

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	1	9	8	5	7	6	4	3
7	6	8	3	4	2	9	5	1
3	5	4	1	6	9	2	8	7
8	4	3	7	1	6	5	2	9
5	7	6	9	2	3	4	1	8
1	9	2	4	8	5	3	7	6
6	8	1	5	9	4	7	3	2
9	3	5	2	7	8	1	6	4
4	2	7	6	3	1	8	9	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AA BATTERIES **Solution: 6 letters**

A	E	C	N	A	I	L	P	P	A	H	T	D	I	W
E	L	B	I	T	A	P	M	O	C	M	I	N	U	S
S	T	K	N	S	T	A	B	L	E	S	H	E	(L)	L
C	M	R	A	O	U	E	S	A	C	L	E	O	(L)	O
I	A	S	E	L	M	M	D	O	A	L	T	E	(E)	R
N	N	T	E	S	I	M	U	N	B	S	S	C	(C)	T
O	U	O	D	S	N	N	O	A	A	A	A	I	U	N
R	F	R	O	P	T	I	E	C	R	M	L	V	M	O
T	A	E	N	V	T	G	Y	E	G	P	E	E	E	C
C	C	P	A	I	R	L	M	G	A	R	A	D	A	E
E	T	L	D	A	I	A	T	A	I	E	K	R	S	R
L	U	A	H	N	C	S	L	D	N	M	B	K	U	I
E	R	C	D	N	A	R	B	G	S	O	I	O	R	P
T	E	E	F	F	I	C	I	E	N	T	F	Y	E	X
R	R	E	B	M	A	H	C	T	S	E	T	S	S	E

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Alkaline, Anode, Appliance, Bargains, Brand, Cameras, Carbon, Case, Cell, Chamber, Common, Compatible, Control, Cylinder, Demand, Device, Discount, Efficient, Electronics, Expire, Fast, Four, Gadget, Insert, Kits, Leak, Manufacturer, Measures, Minus, Music, Rechargeable, Remote, Replace, Save, Sets, Shell, Slot, Stable, Store, Traditional, Value, Width

Yesterday's Answer: Elusive

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Saipan Tribune

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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JOB VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: Sept. 17, 2008 **Closing date: Sept. 30, 2008**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

Executive Director	**Airport Manager**
Comptroller	**Staff Attorney**
Accountant-I	**Staff Engineer**
Accountant-II	**Saipan Port Manager**

Detailed information on minimum qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp

All applications must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than 4:30 p.m., September 30, 2008.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman
Board of Directors

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Loan Specialist I

Position: Loan Specialist I **Opening Date: September 9, 2008**
Closing Date: October 8, 2008

Salary: PL 26/01 to PL 26/05 ($18,584.42 to $22,576.96 per annum)
(The starting salary will commensurate with applicant's education and experience)

Job Location: Mortgage Credit Division, NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 30, 2008, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than October 8, 2008, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to ecfejeran@nmhc.gov.mp NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

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235- NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

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• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

LT finds end zone as Bolts beat Jets

AP

San Diego Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson splits the New York Jets defense for a 2-yard touchdown run during the third quarter of an NFL football game Monday, Sept. 22, 2008, in San Diego.

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Philip Rivers, LaDainian Tomlinson and the rest of the San Diego Chargers simply left no doubt. Frustrated by two gut-wrenching losses, the Chargers raced past nemesis Brett Favre and the New York Jets for a 48-29 victory Monday night in a wild game befitting two original AFL teams.

Rivers threw three touchdown passes, Tomlinson scored his first two TDs of the season and San Diego finally got back at Favre after all these years. They sacked him four times and intercepted him twice, including a 52-yard return for a score by All-Pro cornerback Antonio Cromartie.

Favre always seemed to come up big on Monday nights with Green Bay. This night, though, he finally lost to the Chargers after beating them five straight times dating to 1993.

San Diego (1-2) looked like the team picked by many to reach the Super Bowl. The Chargers lost their opener to Carolina on the last play, then lost by one point at Denver in a game remembered for referee Ed Hochuli's blown call that set up the Broncos' winning score.

Tomlinson, the two-time defending NFL rushing champion, scored on a 2-yard leap to give the Chargers a 38-14 lead in the third quarter. He had been slowed since jamming his right big toe late in the Carolina game. He scored on another 2-yard run late in the fourth quarter, one play after Rivers' 60-yard pass to Vincent Jackson.

Rivers has thrown three TD passes in every game this season. He was 19-of-25 for 250 yards on Monday, while Tomlinson had 67 yards on 26 carries, his third straight game under 100 yards.

Favre had three touchdown passes for the Jets (1-2), including fourth-quarter TD throws of 4 yards to Chansi Stuckey and 13 yards to Dustin Keller. The 38-year-old Favre was 30-of-42 for 271 yards.

The Chargers could have had two more picks, but safety Clinton Hart dropped Favre's fourth-down pass in the end zone late in the third quarter and Cromartie let an interception and a sure touchdown clang off his hands in the first quarter. Cromartie intercepted backup QB Kellen Clemens in the end zone in the final minute.

The Chargers scored three times and the Jets once in a crazy span of 5 minutes, 46 seconds spanning the first and second quarters.

Rivers recovered from an early blunder to throw a 1-yard touchdown pass to rookie fullback Mike Tolbert for a 10-7 lead late with 2:03 left in the first quarter.

On the fourth play of the next Jets' drive, Cromartie overpowered Laveranues Coles and took the ball away, racing 52 yards for a 17-7 lead.

Leon Washington returned the kickoff 94 yards to the San Diego 5. Two plays later, Favre hit Coles on a 3-yard TD pass to pull the Jets within 17-14.

San Diego's Marques Harris recovered an onside kick at the Jets 44 to set up a 27-yard scoring pass from Rivers to Chris Chambers that made it 24-14 11:17 before halftime.

Eric Weddle intercepted Favre to set up Rivers' 6-yard scoring pass to tight end Antonio Gates for a 31-14 lead late in the second quarter.

Jets cornerback David Barrett stunned the Chargers and quieted the crowd at Qualcomm Stadium when he jumped in front of Gates for an interception he returned 25 yards for a touchdown less than four minutes into the game.

NFL BRIEFS

Redskins' Taylor has procedure on kicked calf

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—What seemed like an annoying kick in the calf turned into a significant medical issue for the Washington Redskins and defensive end Jason Taylor, who underwent a 20-minute emergency procedure Monday and will miss next week's game against the Dallas Cowboys. "He's going to be fine," coach Jim Zorn said. "Our problem is that he's going to be out for this Dallas game for sure. I can't tell you beyond that." The injury will end Taylor's consecutive games streak at 133, the seventh longest among active players. He hasn't missed a game since 1999, early in his career with the Miami Dolphins. Taylor was kicked in his left leg in the second quarter of Sunday's 24-17 victory over the Arizona Cardinals. He finished the game and had three tipped passes—including two during a crucial stand inside the Redskins' 10-yard line in the second half—but the leg became painful and sore Sunday night, and he lost feeling in his ankle as blood began to pool.

Saints TE Shockey out 3-6 weeks with sports hernia

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—Tight end Jeremy Shockey, the Saints' second-leading receiver through three games, is expected to be out for three to six weeks because of a sports hernia. Shockey, who was acquired from the New York Giants in a trade shortly before training camp, had 16 receptions for 151 yards during the Saints' first three regular-season games. He played Sunday in New Orleans' 34-32 loss at Denver, catching five passes for 56 yards. On Monday afternoon, Saints spokesman Greg Bensel confirmed a report on the (New Orleans) Times-Picayune's Web site that Shockey was scheduled to have surgery this week. A sports hernia is the weakening of muscles or tendons in the lower abdominal wall. For Shockey, it's the second serious injury in as many seasons. He broke his left leg last December and missed all of the Giants' postseason run to a Super Bowl championship.

Eagles RB Westbrook day to day with ankle strain

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Brian Westbrook limped around without crutches Monday. He could be back to running and slashing this week. The All-Pro running back is day to day with a strained ankle, encouraging news for a Philadelphia Eagles team that can't afford to lose its top offensive player. "I'm sure it'll be a race to get him ready for Sunday," coach Andy Reid. "We'll see how he does. I think we can manage it." Westbrook injured his right ankle while hurdling a teammate on a 2-yard run on the first play of the second quarter of Sunday's 15-6 win over Pittsburgh. He walked to the locker room without help, but didn't return and left the stadium on crutches. An MRI revealed no torn ligaments, Reid said. "He's limping around without the crutches," Reid said. "I guess that's a positive."

Browns considering switch to Brady Quinn at QB

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Brady Quinn hurried from the shower, dressed quickly and hustled out of Cleveland's locker room so he wouldn't be late for Monday's team meeting. "Sorry, guys," he said to reporters after taking only a few questions.

Quinn was on the run, and the Browns' popular backup quarterback could soon be moving up the depth chart.

With his team off to an unexpected 0-3 start and Pro Bowl quarterback Derek Anderson coming off another rough performance, Cleveland coach Romeo Crennel said he is assessing his team and considering personnel changes leading into Sunday's game against the winless Cincinnati Bengals.

"The thing we have to do is evaluate what we've done so far and who can give us the best chance to win," he said.

Crennel was asked if quarterback would be one of the spots where he would consider going in a different direction.

"We have to look at all of the positions," Crennel said. "We'll definitely try to get the other guy ready and get him ready to go and we'll see how it progresses from there."

The other guy is Quinn, the former Notre Dame star, first-round draft pick and perceived face of a franchise that until a few weeks ago seemed to have finally put more than a decade worth of misery behind it. But so far, the Browns are fumbling away a season many predicted would extend into the playoffs.

Cleveland was thumped 28-10 in Baltimore on Sunday, when the Ravens intercepted Anderson twice to score 14 points in a 50-second span early in the third quarter to turn a three-point halftime deficit into an 11-point lead. Anderson finished 14-for-37 for 125 yards, three picks and had a woeful QB rating of 22.9—his second worst in 21 career starts.

Clearly, the 25-year-old wasn't the only reason that the Browns, who have been ravaged by injuries on both sides of the ball, lost their third straight game. But Anderson's inability to rally them in the second half as well as his third consecutive sub-par outing have prompted Crennel and his staff to ponder benching a player who threw 29 touchdown passes last season and one whom the Browns invested $24 million into in February.

Crennel said no decision has been made yet on Sunday's starter.

"I've told Quinn all along that he's one play away," Crennel said. "That's the way he has to approach it. He prepares himself every week like he's the starter and like he's going to get playing time. The number of reps he gets in practice is not up to him, it's up to us as coaches. I know that he'll do everything he can to be ready. Then when he gets called on, I think he'll go in there, he'll perform to the best of his abilities and we'll have to see how good that is."

Quinn spent 15 weeks of his rookie year as Anderson's backup and didn't make his NFL debut until last season's finale against San Francisco. He completed 3 of 8 passes for 45 yards but looked poised while running Cleveland's offense.

During the few minutes he was in the locker room Monday, Quinn was told Crennel is thinking about making a switch.

"Every week it's the backup's job to prepare to be the starter, so nothing's changed," Quinn said. "We've got a lot of things to work on. We have a lot of things to put together. Hopefully we can have another week of preparation and go into Cincinnati confident."

Crennel said he didn't consider bringing in Quinn against a Ravens defense that was "pinning back its ears" in the second half and going after Anderson, who was sacked five times.

Curiously, Crennel, who has come under fire from Browns fans because of poor clock management and his team's overall lack of discipline and consistency so far this season, began his news conference on Monday with a reminder that Cleveland's 10-win season in '08 was ancient history.

"Everybody understands now that last year is officially over and where we are is where we are," he said. "We have to evaluate this year's team for who we are, how we're playing right now and what's happened this year and not look at what happened last year or anticipate that it's going to be OK because it's not OK."

Anderson's production has tailed off dramatically in his past eight starts. After taking over for Charlie Frye in Week 2, Anderson threw 21 touchdowns and 10 interceptions in his first 10 starts of 2008. However, over his past eight starts, Anderson, who missed three exhibition games this summer with a concussion, has nine TDs and 13 interceptions.

Anderson hasn't had his full complement of wide receivers either. Joe Jurevicius is sidelined with a knee injury and Donte' Stallworth, one of the team's big free-agent signings, hasn't played because of a leg injury suffered during warmups before the opener. On top of that, Cleveland's offensive line was without left guard Eric Steinbach on Sunday and right tackle Ryan Tucker hasn't been active after undergoing surgery on his hip.

Crennel understands that it isn't all Anderson's fault, and there are no guarantees Quinn will be any better.

"If we decided to go with him (Quinn)," Crennel said, "we'd just have to put it on the fact that what we've seen in practice and what we feel he's able to do.

"Because there's no hard evidence that says he'd have more success."

Indians keep Red Sox from clinching with 4-3 win

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Red Sox will have to wait at least one more day to clinch their fifth postseason trip in six years.

Rookie Zach Jackson pitched six solid innings and the Cleveland Indians beat Josh Beckett and the Red Sox 4-3 on Monday with the help of a bizarre play involving the third base umpire.

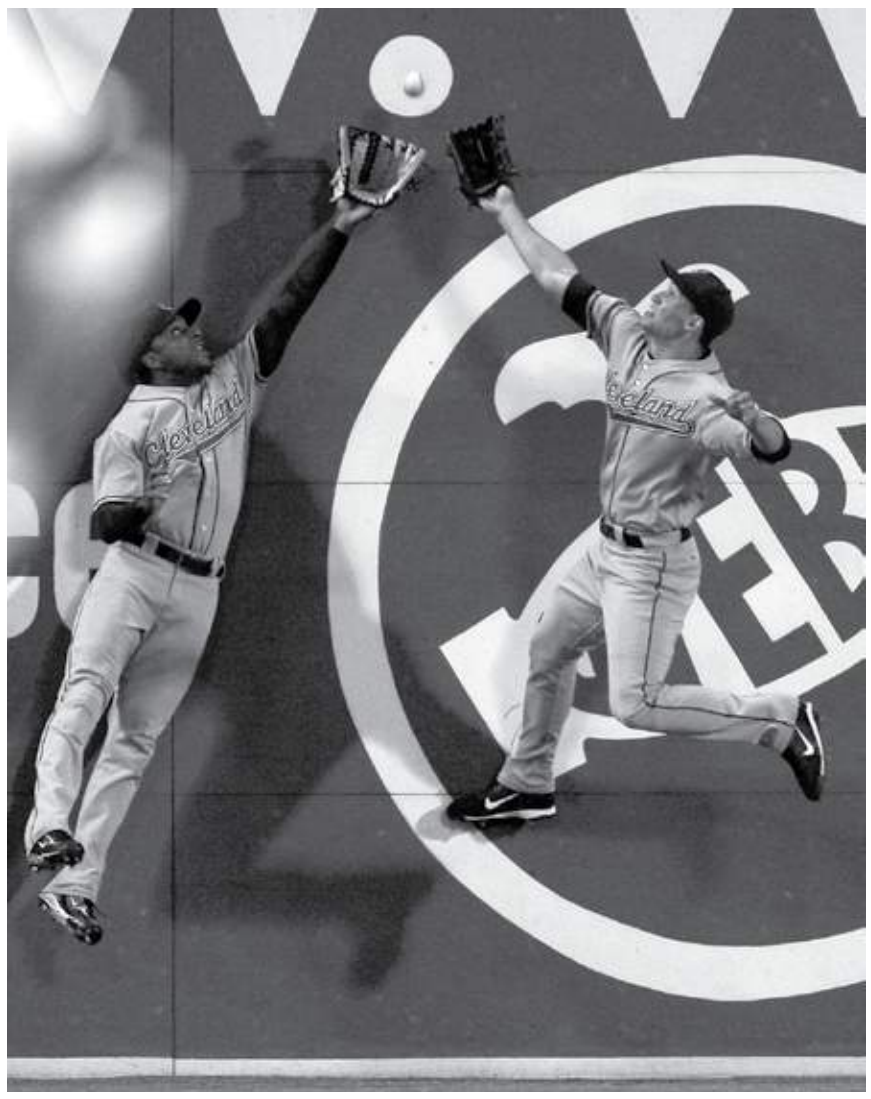
Beckett (12-10) struggled with his control, hitting a career-worst three batters, throwing a wild pitch and walking in a run.

The Red Sox, with six games left, fell 2 1/2 games behind American League East leader Tampa Bay, which beat Baltimore 4-2.

With Cleveland ahead 4-2, Boston had runners at first and second with two outs in the sixth.

Jeff Bailey then lined the ball inside third base. Gerry Davis signaled it was fair, but the ball hit him and stopped just beyond the infield dirt. Third baseman Jamey Carroll picked it up, and Bay, who had rounded third, was caught in a rundown and tagged out.

David Ortiz hit his 23rd homer for the Red Sox.



AP

Cleveland Indians left fielder Ben Francisco, left, and center fielder Grady Sizemore can't get to a double by Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz during the first inning of a baseball game in Boston on Monday, Sept. 22, 2008.

Rays 4, Orioles 2

At Baltimore, Jason Bartlett doubled in the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning, and Tampa Bay beat Baltimore to take another step toward its first AL East title.

The victory reduced the Rays' magic number for winning the division crown to four after the Red Sox lost to the Indians. Any combination of Tampa Bay wins and Red Sox losses totaling four would make the Rays champions of the AL East.

Tampa Bay has already clinched a playoff spot for the first time in franchise history.

Akinori Iwamura singled in two runs in the fifth, and Bartlett's pivotal double off Rocky Cherry (0-3) followed an error by second baseman Brian Roberts and a walk to Eric Hinske.

Royals 6, Tigers 2

At Detroit, David DeJesus went 4-for-4 and Mike Aviles drove in two runs to lead Kansas City past Detroit.

The Tigers were minus suspended slugger Gary Sheffield, then lost star Miguel Cabrera in the third inning because of a tight back. Cabrera was listed as day to day.

Detroit has lost 10 of 11, and is only one game ahead of last-place Kansas City in the AL Central. Sheffield was suspended four games earlier in the day for brawling with Cleveland pitcher Fausto Carmona last week.

Gil Meche (13-11) won for the third time in four starts, allowing two runs and four hits in six innings. Zach Miner (8-5) took the loss, giving up four runs in six-plus innings.

Angels 2, Mariners 1

At Seattle, Ervin Santana and Francisco Rodriguez combined for a five-hitter, Vladimir Guerrero homered and Los Angeles beat skidding Seattle to set a franchise record for road wins.

Seattle has lost 12 straight games and is two away from tying the franchise record set in 1992.

Santana (16-6) allowed one run and five hits to match his career high for victories. He struck out nine, walked none and improved to 3-0 with a 2.19 ERA against Seattle this season.

Rodriguez got three outs to extend his major league record for saves to 61 and earn his 10th against the Mariners this year.

Athletics 4, Rangers 3, 11 innings

At Arlington, Texas, Travis Buck hit an RBI single in the 11th inning and Oakland edged Texas to move into second in the AL West.

The Rangers, who lost their fifth straight game, forced extra innings when Hank Blalock led off the ninth with a homer.

Oakland's victory ensures both teams will finish with losing records. The A's (75-81), who will play 161 games because a rainout at Baltimore will not be made up, took over second for the first time since July 25 after winning their fourth straight game and eighth of nine.

Cliff Pennington led off the Oakland 11th with a double off Luis Mendoza (3-8) and scored on Buck's one-out single, beating the throw home by right fielder Nelson Cruz.

Phillies 6, Braves 2

At Philadelphia, Pat Burrell hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning and the National League East-leading Philadelphia Phillies beat the Atlanta Braves for their 10th win in 11 games.

The Phillies reduced their magic number for clinching their second straight division title to four. Philadelphia's magic number for clinching a playoff berth is three.

Kelly Johnson hit a two-run homer for the Braves, who helped the Phillies by winning two straight against the Mets over the weekend.

Cubs 9, Mets 5

At New York, Jason Marquis became the second pitcher to hit a grand slam against New York this season, and Chicago clinched homefield advantage throughout the NL playoffs while damaging the Mets' postseason chances.

Struggling to avoid another late collapse, the Mets slipped 2 1/2 games behind first-place Philadelphia in the NL East and had their wild-card lead cut to one game over idle Milwaukee.

Jon Niese (1-1) lasted only three-plus innings in his third major league start and New York lost its third straight since moving into first place Friday with a win at Atlanta.

Marquis (11-9) drove in five runs and pitched effectively into the seventh, a big game in his hometown with friends and family in the stands. Derrek Lee also homered and Reed Johnson had a pair of RBI singles for the NL Central champions in the opener of a four-game series that could be a postseason preview.

New York would play Chicago (95-60) in the first round if the NL standings don't change.

Reds 7, Marlins 5

At Cincinnati, Joey Votto homered and doubled to help Cincinnati come back from a four-run deficit and beat Florida.

Votto hit a go-ahead double during a six-run burst in the seventh inning. Jerry Hairston Jr. drove in two runs with a bases-loaded single to tie it, and pinch-hitter Andy Phillips later delivered a two-run single.

Cincinnati's Aaron Harang (6-16), who pitched a shutout against St. Louis last Wednesday, gave up four runs in seven innings.

Florida starter Ricky Nolasco retired 12 straight batters before Votto's 22nd home run in the sixth.

The game was a makeup from a rainout on May 15.

Diamondbacks 4, Cardinals 2

At St. Louis, Brandon Webb won his 22nd game and Stephen Drew homered to help Arizona down St. Louis and creep closer in the NL West.

Three weeks after hitting for the cycle against St. Louis right-hander Joe Pineiro, Drew came within a triple of another and drove in two runs. Conor Jackson had two hits and an RBI for the Diamondbacks, who have won seven of eight and are two games behind the idle Dodgers with six games to go.

Felipe Lopez and Cesar Izturis had three hits apiece for the Cardinals, who have lost 10 of 12. St. Louis' magic number is one to be eliminated from postseason contention.

Webb (22-7) tied the Indians' Cliff Lee for the major league victory lead. Webb has won three straight starts, allowing only four earned runs in 22 innings. He allowed two runs and seven hits in seven innings, one of them scoring on his first balk of the season.

Carmona, Sheffield, 2 others suspended for brawl last week

DETROIT (AP)—Cleveland pitcher Fausto Carmona was suspended six games and Detroit slugger Gary Sheffield was penalized four games Monday for their brawl last week.

Indians catcher Victor Martinez and infielder Asdrubal Cabrera were suspended three games each and fined an undisclosed amount by Major League Baseball disciplinarian Bob Watson.

Sheffield was hit by a pitch from Carmona last Friday night in Cleveland. Moments later, the designated hitter charged the mound from first base, starting a bench-clearing scrap.

"I've been in a lot of brawls, being a peacemaker, and when someone's back is to you, you pull them away—that's what you are supposed to do," said Sheffield, who will not appeal.

"You don't take cheap shots, and that's what happened. I take that personally, and when I find out who it was, they are going to have to deal with me," he said.

Sheffield chose not to give any details about what he meant when he said the Cleveland players would have to "deal" with him.

"I'm not going to get here and talk about what I'm going to do," he said. "I'm just going to do what I'm going to do, and if I challenge someone, I'm going to do it to their face. I don't want it to be a surprise."

Carmona and Martinez will appeal their penalties, which were to have started Monday night when the Indians played at Boston. It was not immediately known whether Cabrera would appeal; his suspension was to begin Thursday.

Sheffield will start sitting out Monday night when Kansas City visits Detroit. He needs three homers to reach 500, but said he didn't consider appealing to give himself a better chance to do it this year.

"I didn't even think about that," he said. "We're not going to be in the playoffs, so it is best to get it over and have a clean slate next year."

The Indians and Tigers are both finishing up disappointing seasons and do not play each other again this year. Sheffield said he wasn't worried that his apparent threats might draw further discipline.

"I don't care about what the league thinks or what they do," he said. "I've got enough money to pay any fine they've got. Trust me."

A day after the brawl, Sheffield seemed particularly peeved at Martinez, who pointed at the Tigers veteran as he was being pulled from the pile.

"He hasn't done anything in this game," Sheffield said then. "He's had a couple of (good) years. When you have a catcher chirping like he's something special ... like he's done something. He hasn't done anything."

Sheffield was in Detroit's original lineup Monday night. Manager Jim Leyland wasn't surprised that he had to change his plans.

"I thought I might have to do this," he said while tearing up his lineup card.

Leyland declined further comment, since he was not managing the Tigers during Friday's game because he'd recently been suspended three games for "inappropriate conduct" directed at umpires.

"I don't think it would be ethical for me to comment, since I wasn't involved in the game," Leyland said.

Colangelo leans toward staying with USA Basketball

PHOENIX(AP)—After building an Olympic gold medal-winning team, Jerry Colangelo might make a run at another championship with USA Basketball.

"I'm kind of leaning toward continuing, but we still have some things that we're talking through just in terms of organization," Colangelo said Monday at a luncheon benefiting the Special Olympics of Arizona. "I'm kind of inclined to continue because it is my connection" to basketball.

Colangelo, the former Phoenix Suns owner, took over as USA Basketball's managing director in 2005. He appointed Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski to lead the team and, in a change of policy, required players to make a three-year commitment.

The Americans swept the gold medal in Beijing, their first in a major international tournament since 2000.

"It's my call whether I want to continue and get ready for London in 2012," Colangelo said. "You know what's really great? The infrastructure is in place for USA Basketball going forward."

Colangelo said he's not sure if his duties would change. The U.S.' next major competition is the 2010 world championships in Turkey.

Purefoods squeaks past undermanned Ginebra

MANILA, Philippines—Purefoods' 2008-09 season appeared in serious jeopardy when the Giants' superstar James Yap limped out with the help of two teammates early in the third quarter of their 2008 Pre-Season game against the Barangay Ginebra Kings on Saturday.

Coach Ryan Gregorio looked terribly stunned as James reached out for his ankle following a bad landing but managed to heave a sigh of relief afterwards when informed that his star player sustained just a minor sprain.

"It's certainly music to my ear that James wasn't badly hurt," said Gregorio, confident his troops will again contend for the championship of the Philippine Cup.

With James out of the rotation, Kerby Raymundo took charge and led Purefoods' comeback from 18 points down and the Giants defeated the undermanned Kings, 83-82, in an exciting finish before a huge crowd at the San Beda gym.

Raymundo scored all but two of his 24 points in the second half, including two free throws with 1.8 seconds remaining that sealed the game for Purefoods which tied Alaska for the lead in Group A.

June Simon scored all his 14 points in the second half and Roger Yap had six assists as he revved up the Giants' fastbreak game.

"We're ready to rumble. Modesty aside, I think we have the tools that will get us to the title playoffs," Gregorio said. The Giants made the Finals of last season's Philippine Cup but lost to eventual champion Sta. Lucia in the deciding Game 7.

James accounted for 13 points but limped out with still 7:28 left in the third quarter after a bad landing off a tough shot and twisted his right ankle.

Purefoods' new recruits—Topex Robinson, Aaron Aban, rookie Beau Belga and Paolo Bugia—also made a good account of themselves in a game that featured five deadlocks and 10 lead changes.

The Kings battled the Giants without guards Mark Caguioa, Jayjay Helterbrand and Junthy Valenzuela and centers Rafi Reavis and Eric Menk.

But their absence didn't seem to matter as Alex Crisano played his best game since rejoining the team last season, and so did tryouts Jun-jun Cabatu, Bern Franco and Michael Gavino.

Crisano and Cabatu came away with 13 points apiece to show the way for the Kings, who dominated the first half with excellent perimeter shooting. Ginebra led 45-29 at halftime

Purefoods 83 – Raymundo 24, Simon 14, J.Yap 13, Aban 8, R Yap 5, Lanete 5, Villanueva 4, Belga 3, Bugia 3, Salvador 2, Alonzo 2, Fernandez 0, Robinson 0.

Ginebra 82 – Crisano 13, Cabatu 13, Artadi 10, Salvacion 10, Tubid 9, Mamaril 6, Pacana 5, Escalona 5, Gavino 4, Espiritu 3, Franco 2,Holper 2, Aquino 0.

Quarters: 13-18; 29-45; 58-59; 83-82. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

ATM

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Wesley showed NMC players how to make a basket, cruising his way past two defenders and nailing a layup in the last 1:30 of the game.

NMC continued to suffer misfortunes in the remaining minutes of the match, as Wallace who escaped past his defenders and was going to the baseline lost the ball which hit his foot first before going out.

Diaz put the final nail on NMC's coffin, drilling his third triple exactly on the same spot where he made his second giving Autonomous a safe 77-62 lead, with less than a minute left in the game.

Diaz finished with 27 points, while the four other starters for Autonomous also scored in double figures with Coldeen chipping in 13. Ponce Rasa, Brostrom and Wesley had 11 markers each.

Wallace still top-scored for NMC wit 24, but was held to four points and one field goal in the fourth quarter. Joe Villacrusis added 15 and Gyles Ruluked contributed 10 off the bench.

NMC won over Autonomous in the regular season via forfeiture and made it 2-0 when it whipped the depleted defending champions in the second round of the playoffs, 88-77.

But the heavily favored NMC failed to pull off a win when it was needed the most, allowing Autonomous a return trip to the finals.

Autonomous made it into the finals despite playing with only six players. NMC had a complete lineup, but its starting five did not get much support from its bench.

The battle for the last finals ticket was intense, particularly at the start of the fourth period when Jerry Diaz and Rasa collided in an Autonomous' fastbreak play. Players pushed each other and exchanged dagger looks, but referees and their respective teammates stepped in, preventing an on-court scuffle.

The PTI-Autonomous title duel will begin tonight with the former enjoying a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals.

Autonomous 81—Diaz 27, Coldeen 13, Rasa 11, Wesley 11, Brostrom 11, Camacho 4.

NMC 62 – Wallace 24, Villacrusis 15, Ruluked 10, Manibusan 4, Buniag 2, Villagomez 2, Roberto 2, Diaz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-10, 28-all, 52-48, 81-62.

Referees: Dado Vistal and Gilbert Espinosa.

MICHAEL

From Page 28

gain entry to the main draw.

Leong finally earned a spot in the main draw of a tournament in Romania. He also made the list in a futures event in Ukraine.

The two tournaments in Eastern Europe still did not give Leong ATP ranking points, as points are only awarded on the ITF Men's Pro Circuit after one wins a main draw match. To make it to the main draw, one has to gain three qualifying wins.

Leong's search for ATP ranking points continued in Iran in June. He advanced to the main draw, was pitted against Nigerian Candy Idoko, who was in the Top 1,000 ranking, and finally earned a point after pulling off a 7-6 (5), 6-4 win.

The Solomon Islands netter returned to Eastern Europe in July and competed in Azerbaijan where he won three games to qualify for the main draw. In the main draw, Leong prevailed in two matches, before losing to Russia's Mikkai Vasiliew, 6-7 (8), 7-5, 6-1, in the quarterfinals.

Leong earned two more points from tournaments in Georgia and Egypt before heading back home.

After five months of competing in the ITF circuit, Leong now has five ATP points entitling him an automatic entry to the main draw of future tournaments.

With Leong gaining an ATP ranking, Pacific Oceania's bid to return to the Asia-Oceania Group II got a big boost.

The Islanders dropped to Group III after staying in Group II for three straight years when they lost to Kuwait, 4-1, in the first round and to Oman, 3-2, in the relegation tie this year.

Leong had the best record among the Islanders in the Davis Cup this year with his 2-2 mark in the singles event. He lost his lone match in the doubles.

Juan Sebastian Langton of Samoa had a 1-3 slate in the singles division. Cyril Jacobe of Vanuatu and Brett Baudinett of Cook Islands were also on the team, but lost all their matches.

TORRES

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runner-up Zach Cruz.

The September champion got off on the right foot, firing 180 in the first game. He came tumbling down in the second game, struggling with a pedestrian 148, before closing out strong with scores of 220 and 203 in the final two games. Incidentally the 220 he rolled in the third game was a tourney high.

Cruz, meanwhile, tattooed a total of 680 pins to finish with an even 170 average. The April champion had a four-game series of 122, 146, 207, and 205.

While Torres was busy earning his second monthly championship of the year, six-time winner Zapanta opened up with a so-so performance and never recovered.

Zapanta, who won the February, March, May, June, July, and August editions of the roll-off, debuted with 112 pinfalls, the third lowest in the eight-team field.

He had 159 in Game 2, 188 in Game 3, and 187 in Game 3 to close out with 646 pinfalls, though still good for third place.

It was Zapanta's lowest score in the monthly roll-off and his 161.50 was also his lowest average.

Torres, Cruz, and Zapanta pocketed the top finishers' prize of $20, $15, and $10, respectively.

Fourth placer Troy Verdaguer averaged 155.25 with games of 113, 149, 144, 215 for a total of 621, while fifth-ranked Marion McKenzie had an average of 143 (131, 85, 199, 127) for a total of 572.

Rounding out the standings were sixth Leeanne Yarobwemal, who had a total of 496; Marcel Mckenzie seventh (371) and eighth Toby Verdaguer (319).

Like the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Monthly Bowling Tournament, the Bing Prince/Princess of the Lanes is sponsored by MARPAC. The tournaments are organized by the Saipan Bowling Association.

TALAVERA

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He followed that up with a 232 in second before slowing down a bit with rolls of 188 and 195 in the third and fourth games, enough to propel him for the win with his total of 872 pinfalls.

In contrast, fellow perfect gamer Robles started slow but closed out strong to settle for second place with an average of 195.25.

He had 189 in first game, 195 in the second, 156 in the third, and 241 in four and final game for a total of 781.

Raymond Angeles failed to sustain a good opening game to place third with his 770 total pinfalls. He averaged 192.50, built around 248, 177, 160, and 185.

Another perfect gamer, Richard Leong, came in fourth with his total of 756 with an average of 189 (189, 170, 184, and 213).

Talavera pocketed the top prize of $100, Robles went home with $50, while Angeles and Leong won $30 and $15, respectively.

A total of 27 players joined the men's division.

Rounding out the Top 10 finishers for the men were Alex Cacdac (749), Raul Dumapit (740), Percy Omechelang (740), Raymond Tolentino (740), Rey Madrilejos (727), and Lito Teodoro (718).

In the women's division, Villaviciencio towed the rest of the field with her total of 722, which was 23 pins more than second placer Lynn Teregoyo's score.

Villaviciencio averaged 180.50 after a seesaw performance. She opened up with a 171, followed with 180, then tumbled with a 166 before finishing strong with a 205.

Teregoyo had 171 in her first two games and she was on her way to winning the title after coming in with a 180 in the third game but collapsed with a 177 in the fourth for an average of 174.75.

Ron Cal was third with her 692. She averaged 173 (170, 173, 194, and 155).

Villaviciencio won $60, Teregoyo $40, and Cal $20.

Elena Soll was fourth with her 687 total after averaging 171.75 (165, 196, 137, and 189).

Diana Camacho settled for fifth with her 685 total after averaging 171.25 (157, 189, 183, 156).

Completing the Top 10 in the women's division were Carol Mckenzie (676), Mhel Regis (656), Diana Camacho (642), Gigi Zapanta (634), and Lala Taitano (630).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

x-Tampa Bay	93	62	.600	–
Boston	91	65	.583	2 1/2
New York	85	71	.545	8 1/2
Toronto	83	73	.532	10 1/2
Baltimore	67	88	.432	26

Central Division

Chicago	86	69	.555	–
Minnesota	84	72	.538	2 1/2
Cleveland	79	77	.506	7.5
Detroit	84	.458	15.0	37
Kansas City	71	86	.452	16.0

West Division

y-Los Angeles	97	59	.622	–
Oakland	75	81	.481	1/2
Texas	75	82	.478	1/2
Seattle	57	99	.365	40.0

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	89	68	.567	–
New York	86	70	.551	2 1/2
Florida	81	75	.519	7 1/2
Atlanta	69	88	.439	20
Washington	58	98	.372	30 1/2

Central Division

x-Chicago	95	60	.613	–
Milwaukee	85	71	.545	10 1/2
Houston	82	73	.529	13
St. Louis	80	76	.513	15 1/2
Cincinnati	73	83	.468	22 1/2
Pittsburgh	65	91	.417	30 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	81	75	.519	–
Arizona	79	77	.506	2
Colorado	71	85	.455	10
San Francisco	70	86	.449	11
San Diego	61	95	.391	20

x-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 4, Boston 3
Kansas City 6, Detroit 2
Tampa Bay 4, Baltimore 2
Oakland 4, Texas 3
LA Angels 2, Seatte 1
Cincinnati 7, Florida 5
Philadelphia 6, Atlanta 2
Chicago Cubs 9, N.Y. Mets 5
Arizona 4, St. Louis 2

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

Buffalo	3	0	0	1.000	78	49
New England	2	1	0	.667	49	58
N.Y. Jets	1	2	0	.333	59	81
Miami	1	2	0	.333	62	64

South

Tennessee	3	0	0	1.000	72	29
Jacksonville	1	2	0	.333	49	58
Indianapolis	1	2	0	.333	52	67
Houston	0	2	0	.000	29	69

North

Baltimore	2	0	0	1.000	45	20
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	.667	54	38
Cincinnati	0	3	0	.000	40	67
Cleveland	0	3	0	.000	26	66

West

Denver	3	0	0	1.000	114	84
Oakland	1	2	0	.333	60	73
San Diego	1	2	0	.333	110	94
Kansas City	0	3	0	.000	32	78

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	3	0	0	1.000	96	63
N.Y. Giants	3	0	0	1.000	83	43
Washington	2	1	0	.667	60	57
Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	90	50

South

Tampa Bay	2	1	0	.667	71	57
Atlanta	2	1	0	.667	81	59
Carolina	2	1	0	.667	56	61
New Orleans	1	2	0	.333	80	83

North

Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	88	71
Minnesota	1	2	0	.333	54	52
Chicago	1	2	0	.333	70	60
Detroit	0	3	0	.000	59	113

West

Arizona	2	1	0	.667	71	47
San Francisco	2	1	0	.667	77	66
Seattle	1	2	0	.333	77	80
St. Louis	0	3	0	.000	29	116

Yesterday's Game

San Diego 48, N.Y. Jets 29

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Southern Sonics	6	0
San Antonio Sixers	4	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	4	1
G-Stars	3	2
Rollers I	2	2
Kontenders	2	3
Suns	1	4
C.K. Saints	1	4
Rollers II	0	7

Tudela lifts Saints to first win

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rollers I and II players battle for the loose ball during the first week of the Rotary caging. The Rollers I lost that match and is now on a six-game losing skid after bowing to the Saints Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Chalan Kanoa Saints broke into the win column with a 66-40 rout of the Rollers II in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Zack Tudela erupted for 38 points to lead the Saints to a 26-point win and snap their four-game losing skid. Tudela's output was the highest so far this season.

He scored the first basket of the game—a 3-pointer—and went on to nail 11 straight points midway in the first half. Tudela also drilled the Saints' last seven points in the first half, which ended with the Chalan Kanoa-based squad ahead by 11, 29-18.

The Rollers II kept the Saints within a striking distance in the first half, as the former drew contributions from its starting five and two players off the bench.

But Tudela continued to put on a show in the second half, firing four more triples, while the Rollers II did not have much offensive prowess to overcome an 11-point deficit and steal the win.

The loss was the Roller II's seventh in as many games keeping the team at the bottom of the team standings.

The 18-and-under caging is on its final two weeks and so far two teams are still undefeated in the nine-team league.

Last year's finalist the Southern Sonics hold a clean 6-0 record and were gunning for win No. 7 against the Kontenders last night.

The San Antonio Sixers was the only other unbeaten team in the league, having won their first four matches.

The Sixers will put their immaculate record at stake against the CNMI Junior Nationals this Friday. The Junior Nationals have a 4-1 slate.

Tonight, the Rollers I will duel the G-Stars hoping to end its two-game losing skid after a 2-0 start. The G-Stars are on a roll having won their last two matches after dropping their first two.

Saints 66 – Tudela 38, Hall 8, Reyes 6, Iglecias 5, Cruz 2, Tenorio 2, Basa 2, Masga 1.

Rollers II 40 – E. Manglona 6, Norita 6, Mabini 6, Rivera 6, Brennan 4, M. Manglona 2, V. Diaz 2, Deleon Guerero 2, Babauta 2.

Scoring by halves: 29-18, 66-40.

Referees: Gabriel White and Arnold Mesa.

FIBA Oceania wants to reach out to CNMI schools

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

FIBA Oceania secretary general Steve Smith will visit Saipan next month to meet with officials from the Public School System and private schools.

FIBA Oceania, through the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands, wants to help PSS and the various private schools in the Commonwealth in running tournaments and leagues.

"The main purpose of the meeting is to help PSS and private schools in the administration of leagues and tournaments. FIBA Oceania wants to know how it can help these schools run their tournaments," BANMI president Elias Rangamar said in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

Smith

Rangamar said Smith will arrive on Saipan on Oct. 5 with FIBA administration manager Judy Smith.

PSS has the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Basketball League, which is open for high school teams and will kick off its 2008-2009 season in January next year.

The league features teams from Marianas High School, Kagman, and Saipan Southern. Mt. Carmel School is also participating in the league. Three years ago, Grace Christian Academy, another private school on Saipan, fielded a women's team in the MISO caging.

The Southern Manta Rays are the defending champion in the boys division, while the Kagman Lady Ayuyus ruled last season's women's division.

PSS does not have a league for its elementary schools, but holds a tournament annually with volunteer teachers organizing the elementary caging.

Private schools have the Coalition of Private Schools Basketball League, which features competition in the middle school and high schools divisions.

The private school league will open shop for the 2008-2009 season in January next year, after it started its volleyball season last month.

Members of the coalition are Saipan International School, Saipan Community School, GCA, Mt. Carmel, Whispering Palms and Seventh Day Adventist.

Rangamar said it is important that FIBA meets public and private school officials to bring more order to the leagues and tournaments being organized in the scholastic level.

When asked about the possibility of having all public and private schools play in one league, Rangamar said it has been BANMI's dream to bring all schools in one group, but funding and manpower problems prevent them from doing so.

"Usually school leagues are run by volunteer teachers and schools don't really have a group whose role should solely focus on organizing leagues and tournaments because of lack of funds," Rangamar said.

While BANMI still finds way to form one league for private and public schools, the association for now will be contented in assisting in the officiating of games and helping schools in their calendar of tournaments.

"It's very important for schools to submit a calendar of tournaments, so we can arrange the venue and the availability of game officials for the matches," Rangamar said.

Eagles seek 5th straight win against Knights

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Grace Christian School will try to keep its momentum going when the Eagles resume their cancelled game against the Mount Carmel Knights today in the junior varsity division of the 2008 Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League.

A heavy downpour forced the cancellation of games yesterday afternoon in different venues.

Over at the Navy Hill, host GCA was leading the game over visiting MCS when rain fell.

The Eagles won the first set against the Knights, 25-15, and need only one more set to continue their winning rampage in the three-week old league.

The game is set at 3:30pm at the Eagles' home court in Navy Hill.

The Eagles are undefeated after four games. Their victims include Saipan Community last Sept. 9, SIS-Green last Sept. 11, Whispering Palms last Sept. 16, and Calvary Christian Academy last Sept. 18.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Grace Brostrom of host Saipan International School-Green serves in the second set of their victory at home against the visiting Saipan Community on Sept. 18.

Also to be played today will be the cancelled game between the high school division's four-time defending champion GCA and MCS.

The Eagles are also undefeated in three games in the varsity division, while the Knights have a 2-1 win-loss record.

The Eagles defeated SIS Green last Sept. 11, MBA last Sept. 12, and CCA last Sept. 18.

Other games scheduled yesterday were between SIS-Blue and MBA in the high school division, WPS vs. CCA in middle school, SIS-Green vs. Seventh Day Adventist (both), and Saipan Community vs. SIS-Blue (middle school).

Mak'Po wins SAPTember v-ball 18-under

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Team Mak'Po buckled down to work after a mediocre start to outlast the Bratz and clinch the title in the Boys 18-year old and under division that capped the two-day SAPTember volleyball tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Sunday, Sept. 21.

Organized by the Community Guidance Center of the Department of Public Health and sanctioned by the NMI Volleyball Association, the tournament was part of the observance of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery Month.

A total of 10 teams in three divisions took part in the one-day competition.

CGC sports coordinator Becky Covarrubias was happy with the good turnout as she thanked all those who volunteered their services and helped make the tournament a great success.

Mak'Po dropped the first set, 10-21, as the Bratz momentarily took control of the show with aggressive plays.

But Mak'Po struggled to win the second set, 21-15, before wrapping up the big win with an easy 21-15 count in the deciding third set.

It was a double celebration for Mak'Po as the team also won the sportsmanship award.

Bratz settled for second place while Look Out Jammers were third.

In the girls' 18-and-under division, youth prevailed over experience.

Champion Team Magas, who are composed mostly of junior national athletes, outsmarted the runner-up Swingers in straight sets, 21-18, 21-18.

Bonafide, which won the division's sportsmanship award, was third while Magahagas placed fourth.

The Eagles also rallied back from a first set deficit before pulling off a 15-21, 21-13, 15-12 triumph over the stunned Terns in another exciting championship match in the Co-ed 14-and- under division.

The sportsmanship award for the division was given to the third placer Geckos.

Tudela lifts Saints to first win

The Chalan Kanoa Saints broke into the win column with a 66-40 rout of the Rollers II in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

LT finds end zone as Bolts beat Jets

Philip Rivers, LaDainian Tomlinson and the rest of the San Diego Chargers simply left no doubt. Frustrated by two gut-wrenching losses, the Chargers raced past nemesis Brett Favre and the New York Jets for a 48-29 victory.

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ATM arranges title duel vs PTI

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Autonomous lost against Northern Marianas College in their first two meetings, but when the defending finals finally did, it was big, as the prize was a finals ticket to the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League.

The former Office of Public Auditor notched a masterful 81-62 victory over NMC Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to set up a title showdown with first finalist PTI.

Autonomous knocked down four triples in the last 5:18 of the game to foil NMC's finals bid. NMC had a chance to secure the first finals seat, but lost to PTI in the semifinals, 90-94, putting the Rufino Aguon-coached squad to a do-or-die-game against Autonomous.

Ed Diaz made sure Autonomous will live for another day to defend their title when he drilled three of those four triples in the fourth period.

His first was a crucial one as it gave Autonomous back the lead after Gyles Ruluked's undergoal stab, off a drop pass from Mel Manibusan, put NMC in the driver's seat, 62-61, with 5:18 remaining on the clock.

After Ruluked's basket, Autonomous set up its offensive play with Diaz on the firing end, making a booming triple on the right sideline to give Autonomous a 64-62 advantage.

The defending champion never relinquished the driver's seat from thereon, as Diaz canned two more triples and Bobby Coldeen added one, while NMC went scoreless in the last five minutes of the game.

Diaz connected on his second triple in the fourth quarter after Tim Wesley made a perfect feed to Richard Brostrom, who made a reverse layup.

After hitting his second trey, Diaz performed well on the defensive end, holding his ground against Joe Villacrusis, who gave a moving pick for teammate Mark Wallace and was called for an offensive foul.

Both teams traded misses in the ensuing plays until Coldeen made a dagger, drilling a triple on the left key with the 24-shot clock wining down and giving Autonomous a 72-62 advantage, with 2:34 left in the game.

NMC sued for time hoping to bring order back to the team, but the lull failed to produce dividends for the pennant champion as it missed three successive shots. Wallace and Lawrence Buniag muffed their triples, while Jerry Diaz missed a point-blank shot as he was intimidated by the outstretched arms of Brostrom.

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Autonomous' Ed Diaz, right, challenges the defense of NMC's Mark Wallace during their playoff game for the second finals ticket in the PTI caging Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Michael Leong gets ATP ranking

Leong

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Oceania now has a player with a world professional ranking in Michael Leong of the Solomon Islands.

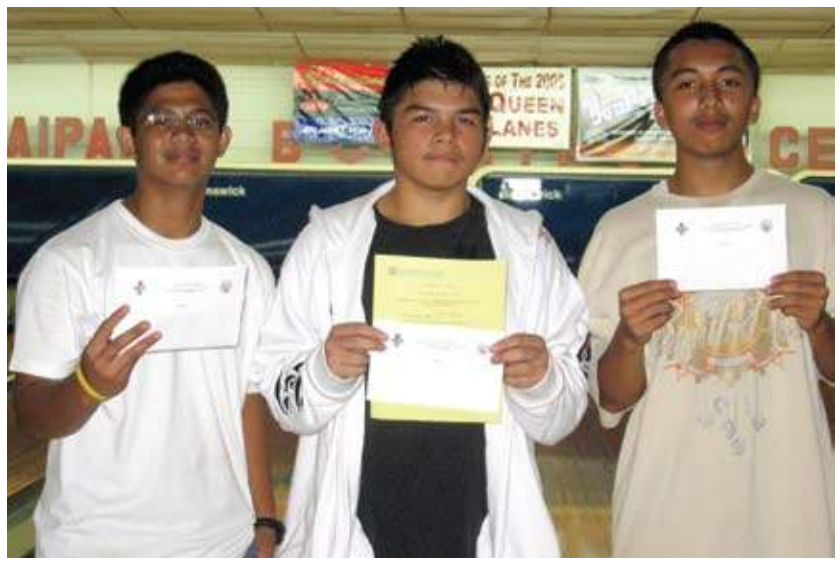
Leong is now ranked No. 1,338 after playing in various tournaments in the ITF Men's Pro Circuit this year. He started earning ATP ranking points after playing for the Pacific Oceania Davis Cup team in 2008 Asian-Oceania Group II relegation tie with Oman early this year.

From Oman, Leong returned to the Solomon Islands and went to Perth, Australia for two ITF Men's Futures events. He won matches in the qualifying tournament Down Under, but failed to make the main draw.

Leong's next stop was Colombia where he also won matches in the qualifying events, but still could not

See MICHAEL on Page 26

Torres snaps Zapanta's Bing winning streak



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

September Bing Energy Drink Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament J.D. Torres is flanked by runners-up Zack Cruz, right, and Raphael Zapanta during Sunday's award ceremony at the Saipan Bowling Center.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

J.D. Torres snapped Raphael Zapanta's four straight wins in the Bing Energy Drink Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament after ruling the September roll-off Sunday night at the Saipan Bowling Center in Oleai.

Torres, who won the January edition, averaged 187.75 pinfalls per game to finish with a four-game total of 751 pinfalls and triumphed by 71 pins over

See TORRES on Page 26

Talavera, Villaviciencio are Sept. King and Queen

By NAZARIO RORIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Multi-titled keglers Robert Talavera and Yho Villaviciencio topped their respective divisions and shared the limelight in the September roll-off of the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Bowling Tournament Monday night at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Talavera leaned on his strong opening game on the way to winning the men's division by 91 pins over his closest pursuer Dannie Robles.

The 38-year-old 2006 Bowler of the Year averaged 218 on Sunday as he came up with a monster score of 257 in the very first game.

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